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Women's March activists kick off MSE Symposium

By EMILY MCDONALD
For *The News-Letter*

The day after U.S. President Donald Trump's inauguration, an estimated three to five million people participated in the Women's March, the largest single-day demonstration in U.S. history.

Protesters gathered in cities around the world to support women's rights, racial justice, LGBTQ rights and other causes.

Tamika Mallory, Bob Bland, Carmen Perez and Linda Sarsour, the organizers of the Women's March, spoke as part of the Milton S. Eisenhower (MSE) Symposium speaker series on Monday.

They discussed their experiences organizing the demonstration and shared their thoughts on how individuals can continue to spark change in their communities.

Bland is the founder and CEO of Manufacture New York, a clothing company which promotes ethical practices and domestic production in the fashion industry. She said that she used Facebook to spread awareness about

the Women's March and to connect with other organizers and activists.

According to Bland, feedback on social media prompted them to focus on making the March more inclusive.

"We had thousands and thousands of comments from really passionate people. It was very overwhelming for the group of us that started it, but it was also necessary, because the March wouldn't have fulfilled its potential promise if it hadn't been for the points that came up," she said.

"You better damn believe that women were going to lead the largest single-day protest in U.S. history."

— LINDA SARSOUR,
WOMEN'S MARCH
ORGANIZER

Bland emphasized that the March's success depended on a diverse representation of voices and perspectives.

"Everyone had to be there, and I think that that's one of the key things for anyone who's building any movement, any organization, any action," she said. "You have to start with everyone around the table."

Sarsour is an activist and the executive director of the Arab American Association of New York, an organization founded in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in order to support Arab-

SEE SYMPOSIUM, PAGE A5



COURTESY OF MORGAN OME

At a bake sale on Friday, Sept. 29 students raised over \$3,000 for Unidos por Puerto Rico, a relief fund created by the island's First Lady.

Students unite for Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria

By MORGAN OME
News & Features Editor

Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, leaving over three million people without power and destroying much of the island's infrastructure, agriculture and environment.

Senior Pepe Muniz, a Puerto Rican native, felt powerless as he watched the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria from Baltimore. Though he has been able to contact his parents, Muniz said that power outages caused by the hurricane have left him unable to communicate with other members of his family.

"It's been over a week, and I still can't get in touch with my grandparents. The phone doesn't even ring," he said. "There's just no signal. Everything was destroyed."

In an update released on Oct. 2, the Federal Communications Commission stated that 87.9 percent of cell towers in Puerto Rico were out of service.

Freshman Veronica Montane, who was also born and raised in Puerto Rico, said that the limited phone service is just one of many problems plaguing the island.

"The supermarkets have no food and the gas lines

are up to 12 hours or more," she said. "Since my mom works at the airport, she's gotten food, supplies and gasoline from them. But my grandpa and uncle, they moved temporarily to Miami to have running water and electricity."

Montane said that watching the destruction of her home compelled her to

take action. As a member of the track team, she enlisted the support of her teammates and contacted fellow Puerto Rican Laura Bou Delgado. Along with other Puerto Ricans at Hopkins, Delgado and Montane decided to host a bake sale on the Breezeway and donate the funds to relief efforts.

SEE PUERTO RICO, PAGE A6

Contract workers make gains in fight for benefits

By JACOB TOOK
News & Features Editor

Last year, the Student Labor Action Coalition (SLAC) pressured the University to implement better job security, housing benefits and a \$15 minimum wage for contract workers on campus.

Recently, several measures have been implemented to address SLAC's demands. By 2019 dining workers will receive a \$15 minimum wage. Additionally, a Baltimore City Council bill passed in June guarantees that contract workers will not lose their jobs if their employer is re-

placed by another contract company.

SLAC, a coalition that includes students, dining workers and security guards, has actively campaigned on behalf of contract workers at Hopkins, leading several protests over the course of the previous school year.

Since contract workers are not hired directly by the University, they do not have the same benefits as University employees. The two largest contract companies at Hopkins are Bon Appétit, a food service company that staffs dining facilities on campus, and Allied Universal, a com-

pany that provides security services.

Alberta Palmer is an organizer at Unite Here Local 7 (Local 7), a union representing the dining workers employed by Bon Appétit. She explained that the union originally asked Hopkins to institute the job security policy.

"We were asking Hopkins to pass a policy that says when the companies change, make sure the workers keep their jobs," Palmer said. "Hopkins didn't do it, so we pushed the City to do it, and actually we got them to make it a law."

The bill, called the Dis-

placed Service Workers Protection, would require an incoming contract company to retain current employees for at least a 90-day transition period. Mayor Catherine Pugh signed the bill into law on June 19.

First-year PhD student Corey Payne was formerly a member of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), a student group and activist organization that works closely with the SLAC campaign.

He said that the University did not lobby against the bill as much as he expected, attributing this to SLAC's efforts last year. However,

SEE SLAC, PAGE A4

Career Center shifts focus to industry networking



COURTESY OF SARAH Y. KIM

The Career Fair featured over 90 employers on Thursday, September 28.

By SARAH Y. KIM
News & Features Editor

In an effort to offer more resources to students, the Career Center has expanded several of its initiatives this year. In particular, the Center is building on its Career Academies model, which was implemented last year.

The Academies, which are made up of students, alumni, faculty, parents and employers, help students network with professionals in their desired career fields.

The six Academies are Arts, Media & Marketing, Consulting, Nonprofit & Government, Finance, Health Sciences and STEM & Innovation.

Unlike last year, the Career Center has begun hosting Academy-specific weeks with programming events, like workshops and coffee chats. These weeks will be scheduled around

the recruitment timelines of the Academies' respective industries. The Center also plans on hosting monthly meet-ups within industry groups.

Executive Director of the Career Center Ann Garner, who oversees the Academies, began working for Hopkins last May. The University invited Garner to spearhead the Career Academies because she implemented a similar model at other schools.

"One of the things I'm really trying to do is make sure that Hopkins is as current, or as up to speed, in career services as our peer institutions," Garner said.

Since she started working at the Career Center, Garner has observed that students tend to spend more time online trying to find jobs and internships and less time on in-person interactions with employers.

"It should be the reverse," SEE CAREER, PAGE A4

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NFL athletes against racism



Sports Editor Greg Melick argues that athletes have the right to use their public position to protest for what they believe in.

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A federal department of science?

Columnist Jonathan Patterson calls for an umbrella department to encourage collaboration between the numerous science sectors in the U.S. government.

SCITECH, PAGE B5

Not a laughing matter

Nicola Sumi Kim addresses how joking about suicide and depression trivializes mental health issues.

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NEWS & FEATURES

How does the University support DACA recipients?

By SARAH Y. KIM
News & Features Editor

As Congress continues to debate the fate of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), members of the Hopkins community have expressed concern over the future of DACA recipients, also known as Dreamers.

They have also raised questions over protections the University has in place for Dreamers and the extent to which Hopkins is a welcoming environment for people of undocumented status.

Last December, the Student Government Association (SGA) passed a resolution demanding that the University designate itself as a sanctuary campus in support of a student-led petition that circulated in November, 2016.

The resolution requests that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers be prevented from entering campus unless they obtain permission from the University. It also demands University support for DACA.

In response to the SGA resolution, University President Ronald J. Daniels and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Sunil Kumar issued a statement on Dec. 19, 2016 expressing the University's support of DACA and promised emergency aid if necessary.

They also affirmed that law enforcement officials would not be permitted on campus without a valid warrant or court order and that information regarding the immigration status of Hopkins community members would remain confidential unless required otherwise by law.

On Sept. 6, Daniels also released a statement reaffirming emergency aid for students, a day after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a six month phase-out period for DACA.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Tom McDermott, assistant vice provost for financial aid and director of student financial services explained their that offices will cover the calculated financial need of undocumented undergraduates.

"For the purpose of establishing eligibility for institutional need-based aid, we consider undocumented students as international students," he wrote. "We meet 100 percent of calculated financial need of any admitted undergraduate at Homewood, whether they are domestic or international."

He added that while they are eligible for University financial aid, undocumented students are not eligible under the law for federally funded aid, also known as Title IV programs.

McDermott also stressed that the University's policies for undocumented students were not affected by the implementation of DACA and that they would not change if DACA were to end.

"[Hopkins] is committed to providing emergency aid or other financial support to ensure that students impacted by the end of DACA can complete their degrees," he wrote.

This year, Baltimore

joined a growing league of U.S. sanctuary cities. These do not fully comply with federal immigration laws and Police or city employees are not allowed to question people on their immigration status.

Other sanctuary cities include Los Angeles; New York City, Seattle, Philadelphia, D.C. and Denver.

Last week, ICE officials arrested a total of 498 people for federal immigration violations, none of whom were DACA recipients. In Baltimore City and surrounding counties, officials made 28 arrests.

According to ICE, 317 of those arrested had criminal records.

Sophomore Tarek Meah criticized ICE's actions, suggesting they were an overreach of power.

"What confuses me about the conservative train of thought is that they want a smaller government but they are overstepping the sovereignty of cities and sending in federal agents to arrest people," he said.

Meah also called upon the University to take an active role in immigration policy in Baltimore.

"I think as a University, especially as Hopkins, we are in a place where we need to be able to have dialogue about what happens in Baltimore," he said.

Meah added that Hopkins should take a public position regarding ICE.

"Everything we do affects the residents in Baltimore. President Daniels issued a statement about DACA and Dreamers, but he should also issue a statement about what's happening with ICE and sanctuary cities."

Hopkins alum starts Korean pop-up restaurant

By CLAIRE FOX
Senior Staff Writer

The Korean pop-up restaurant Haenyo hosted its first dinner service at Peko-Peko Ramen on Monday as part of its weekly series in October.

Every Monday, through the end of the month, the Baltimore-based startup will transform the Charles Village ramen shop into a Korean stew house, featuring traditional soups and stews as well as other Korean dishes.

Founded by Hopkins Class of 2014 alumnus Irvin Seo and Towson University alumnus Collin Morstein, Haenyo first debuted in May at Holy Crepe Cafe in Canton.

The duo, who met while working at Remington butchery and restaurant Parts & Labor, began their idea for a pop-up after hosting a dinner party together for their friends.

The concept of Haenyo came about after Seo went on a month-long trip to Korea not long after the dinner party.

"[In Korea] I was thinking, 'I'm eating so much amazing stuff, stuff that I know how to make and I've had before in my house growing up,'" Seo said. "But this is my seventh year here in Baltimore and I haven't had a single one of these dishes since I've come out here."

Though Baltimore is home to several popular Korean restaurants, Seo

and Morstein realized that none of them were taking a chance on serving traditional dishes.

"I just never find myself at the Korean restaurants, because no one here really wants to ever go, except for like late night drunk Korean food. That's not all it is," Seo said. "Our whole goal is to continue expanding into the whole world of Korean cuisine and do a lot more traditional stuff."

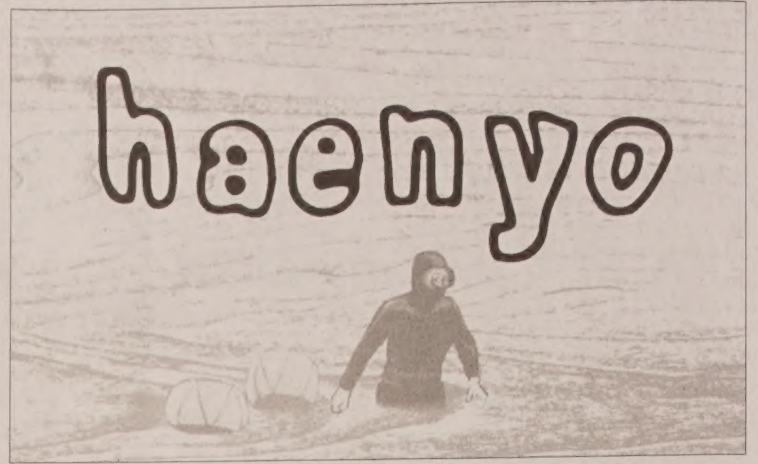
Morstein said that one of the hopes for Haenyo is to attract both those familiar and unfamiliar with traditional Korean dishes.

"I think there's a sweet spot where if Korean Americans are coming and they've tasted

this food before and have expectations, they come back, and that's great," he said. "The other side of the coin is if we're able to introduce people to this wholly new thing for them, that's awesome too."

The menu for Haenyo's October series features several seasonal recipes, based on the produce that grows locally.

Since the climate in Bal-



COURTESY OF HAENYO

Haenyo, founded by a Hopkins alum, hosted its first dinner event at PekoPeko on October 2.

timore is fairly similar to that of a lot of Korea, many of the same fruits and vegetables can grow in both locations. Most of the produce in Haenyo's dishes is sourced locally from Karma Farms in Monkton, Maryland.

As for their favorite items on the menu, both Morstein and Seo pointed to sundubu-jjigae, a soft tofu stew.

"It's got so many of the quintessential Korean elements in it, like the spicy and the almost tangy from the fermented kimchi and a little fishy too," Seo said.

The opening night of Haenyo at PekoPeko Ramen was busier than the owners anticipated. While the pop-up was supposed to stay open from 5 to 10 p.m., the kitchen closed at 8 p.m. after running out of food due to a high amount of traffic.

After their first run, however, Morstein said that he and Seo are more prepared for next week in terms of food supply.

"Over ordering is a huge issue, because we don't have the luxury of having service [the next day]," Morstein said. "We try to be conservative with what

we order, but... we'll just increase that by a magnitude of ten. We're excited! Hopefully it's the same volume; hopefully people will come back and give us another shot."

As an alumnus, Seo was excited to introduce Haenyo to the Hopkins community, and he and Morstein found that the University's connections, particularly the Baltimore Young Alumni Committee, have greatly helped them with their business.

"I'm an outsider. I didn't go here, but I've been pretty amazed at how supportive the alumni community has been for us," Morstein said. "It's really cool and has been great to experience."

Regarding the future of Haenyo, Morstein said that both he and Seo are content with the pop-up restaurant model for the time being.

"This is awesome and such a great setup; there's tons of flexibility. We get to meet new people; we get to meet new chefs, owners; we get to travel," Morstein said. "That freedom and not having that preoccupation of stress of owning a building and an entire staff is nice."

Monument Quilt displays stories of sexual assault survivors

By PETER JI
Senior Staff Writer

FORCE, a Baltimore-based activist group, brought the Monument Quilt to Hopkins on Wednesday as a public display of support for survivors of sexual assault. The Monument Quilt is a collection of 2500 squares of fabric with stories, reflections and words of advice. A selection of these squares were arranged across the Beach to spell out "You are not alone."

Throughout the day, students were able to view the quilt and contribute tiles. Cards were also available to educate people about how they could support survivors.

The Sexual Assault Resource Unit (SARU), the Center for Health Education and Wellness, the Office of LGBTQ Life, Women and

Gender Resources and By-stander Intervention Training co-sponsored the event.

The Monument Quilt was last displayed at Hopkins in 2015. Over the last two years, policy makers and University administrators have continued to debate how to address sexual assault on college campuses.

On Oct. 2, SARU released an open letter to University President Ronald J. Daniels, asking him to uphold Obama-era guidelines on investigating sexual assault. On Sept. 22, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos rescinded the 2011 "Dear Colleague" guidelines as well as a 2014 document titled "Questions and Answers on Title IX Sexual Violence."

At press time, 504 people had signed the letter.

Junior Vahni-Vishala Ber-

nard, a member of SARU, believes the quilt is a form of activism and can give sexual assault survivors a stronger voice.

"The main point of the Monument Quilt is to empower survivors by giving them a voice and celebrating their journey to healing by creating a community and safe space to combat sexual violence," she said.

Bernard also pointed out problems she saw with how sexual assault cases are handled.

"It's not taken as seriously as it should be, because anytime someone does speak out against an incident... either nothing happens or the process is so delayed that it is ineffective," she said.

Saida Agostini, the chief operating officer of FORCE, explained how artists Re-

becca Nagle and Hannah Brancato came up with FORCE and the Monument Quilt.

They felt that public monuments could help survivors recover from trauma.

"We've been all over the country.

We've been in 44 cities, and we definitely love working with campuses, where there's a lot of conversation about sexual and domestic violence," Agostini said. "The Monument Quilt is a place where people can come and have conversations about how rape culture is promoting other types of violence."

She described FORCE as an artist's collective that is trying to combat rape culture through art. The group holds workshops in various cities, where some of the quilts were made. Others were submitted online or by survivors of violence who came to see the quilt.

Agostini joined FORCE because she wanted to fight the stigma against survivors of sexual assault.

"For me, especially as a survivor, it's really important... to have a space that's about believing," she said. "So often when you try to talk about your experiences, you are met with doubt and disbelief. Why did that happen? Are you sure that happened?"

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, one out of six women are survivors of an attempted or completed rape. In addition, minorities are more likely to experience assault than white women.

"There's a stereotype about survivors being white, straight, cis," she said. "To

have people who are queer, transgender, undocumented and other types of immigrants is really important to us."

Senior Wen Wen Teh stopped to look at the Monument Quilt for the first time while walking across campus.

"I've actually not been here before in these four years," she said. "I was going to class and I thought I should go. I think it's great to give people a platform without being judged."

Teh admired that the Monument Quilt represents a culture of awareness around sexual assault survivors in the U.S. She thinks that fostering open discussions and increasing students' awareness of these issues is a positive step.

"I'm not from America, so this issue is really swept under the rug. In Malaysia, we don't have sexual education or even talk about sexual violence. It shows that people care and they actually do something about it," she said.

Sophomore Sydney Timmerman appreciated the space the Monument Quilt provided to address sexual assault.

"These aren't stories that are told openly in public," she said. "It's cool that it's open on the Beach. It gives people a place to talk about it and be acknowledged."



SAMANTHA SETO/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

The Monument Quilt displayed artwork, stories and reflections of sexual assault survivors.

NEWS & FEATURES

SGA invites input on smoking ban resolution

By **DIVA PAREKH**
Copy Editor

After passing a resolution calling for smoking cessation resources at Hopkins last week, the Student Government Association (SGA) debated on a campus-wide smoking ban at its weekly meeting this Tuesday. The meeting was followed by a public input session during which Hopkins community members offered feedback on a potential smoking ban.

Voting on the Smoking Ban Resolution was supposed to take place at the meeting, but has been pushed back indefinitely to give SGA more time to collect community input and relevant statistics. Input will be solicited from undergraduate students, graduate students, staff, faculty and contract workers.

Senior Class Senator Joshua Bertalotto said that even though SGA is focusing on marketing the resources for smoking cessation, the ban has become the focus of University discourse.

Executive Secretary Rushabh Doshi agreed, adding that this was one of the reasons SGA decided to delay voting on the ban.

"The ban is getting a lot more attention than smoking cessation resources," Doshi said.

Deputy to the Vice Provost for Student Affairs Erin Yun and Human Resources Staff Member Meredith Stewart were present.

Yun explained that the idea of a smoke-free Hopkins was first brought up during fall 2012 to University President Ronald J. Daniels. During spring 2013, SGA worked with student groups at all University campuses and rolled out a survey to understand smoking demographics throughout Hopkins.

Yun discussed the divisive outcome of this survey.

"Students across the University were in favor of going smoke free, but it was not unanimous," she said. "Homewood graduate students were not in favor of it."

Yun said that the committee that was consequently created to further explore the issue spent over a year debating aspects of implementation, financial resources and enforcement.

"Designated smoking areas really seemed like the logical next step," she added. "It's a more pluralistic approach and preserves the ability of individuals to make their own decisions."

She also discussed the challenges associated with creating and maintaining smoking areas. Because they cannot be located near doors or air vents, they would have to be in less frequented areas of campus, which she said could make smokers feel like "third-class citizens."

She also believes a campus-wide ban would be easier to enforce.

Stewart emphasized the administration's goal of prioritizing smoking cessation and making it a prominent on-campus presence avail-

able to students, faculty, staff and Hopkins affiliates.

Though the smoking cessation resolution has been passed, the University is still in the process of finding a vendor for cessation resources. Senior Class President Kwame Alston expressed concerns regarding funding.

"Rolling out smoking cessation programs University-wide and finding a vendor would obviously be a very costly endeavor," he said.

"How far would someone have to go to actually smoke a cigarette?"

— **KWAME ALSTON, SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT**

B o t h Alston and Bertalotto questioned how the ban would be enforced, noting that many University offices are on N. Charles Street.

"How far would someone have to go to actually smoke a cigarette?" Alston said.

Sophomore Class Senator Olivia Cigarroa suggested that if a ban were to be implemented, breaks should be extended for employees to give them time to leave campus to smoke.

Senior Class Senators Tatiana Sorenson and Sarah Zappone advised against implementing monetary fines to enforce the ban, particularly for contract workers and graduate students with low disposable incomes.

Sophomore Class Senator Alex Walinskas feels that small measures like removing the ashtrays on the Brody Terrace have been effective in encouraging people to stop smoking in front of Brody.

Doshi noted that many of the security officers meant to enforce the ban also smoke, making enforcement an even greater challenge.

He explained future plans for the Smoking Ban Resolution in an email to *The News-Letter*, which include reaching out to Executive Director of Campus Safety and Security Lee James.

"I am going to set in motion a school-wide survey to gauge student interest in Smoke-Free Hopkins which will be sent out in next month's school-wide emails," Doshi wrote.

Any further decisions on the Smoking Ban Resolution will be put off until after SGA receives survey results.

During the public input session, senior Emeline Armitage asked SGA to reach out to the contract workers' unions for input.

Senior John Hughes agreed with Armitage, adding that smoking areas could be designated without direct enforcement from the SGA.

"You could even incentivize walking [to smoking areas] by adding space heaters there," Hughes said.

Another guest was Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion Moses Davis, who emphasized the importance of students engaging in other cultures and helping to further diversity at Hopkins.

Sorenson discussed ways in which SGA could provide the Hopkins community with free pads and tampons. Other topics discussed included fossil fuel divestment, the Monument Quilt Project and the OMA 25th Anniversary celebration.

IDEAL hosts discussion on NFL demonstrations

By **HALEY HANSON**
For *The News-Letter*

In 2016, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick began kneeling as the National Anthem played before each game, starting a larger controversy about the role of activism in sports.

IDEAL, a nonpartisan student group that promotes discussion on college campuses, hosted a discussion about the demonstrations on Wednesday.

Kaepernick began taking a knee during the National Anthem to protest against what he considers to be the oppression of people of color in the U.S. Since then, more athletes have begun taking a knee during the National Anthem.

Other forms of demonstration have taken place, such as when Golden State Warriors player Stephen Curry refused U.S. President Donald Trump's invitation to visit the White House.

The discussion began with addressing Trump's reaction to the growing activist movement, which many consider to be divisive. After contextualizing the controversy, the panel asked if it

was appropriate for Trump to criticize these protests.

Sophomore Omar Lloyd criticized Trump's response.

"The President should at least try and talk to them and figure out why they're doing it," he said. "The way he goes about saying 'get out of the country if you don't agree with everything that's going on' is just the completely wrong way to go about it."

According to another audience member, former U.S. President Barack Obama took a more balanced approach, saying that while athletes who choose to kneel should acknowledge that some people might consider the action disrespectful, those people should similarly understand the reasoning behind the protest.

Participants also discussed whether there is a role for social activism in sports. Many agreed that athletes have the right to make their voices heard.

Lloyd said that despite the divisive nature of the subject, the discussion remained civil.

"There was a good flow of ideas back and forth," he said. "People respectfully



COURTESY OF LIAM HAVIV

After athlete protests, students discussed the role of activism in sports.

disagreed and agreed."

He added that he appreciated the scope of the talk.

"We talked a lot about patriotism and what that means and what it means to respect the flag and to be American, what it means to be conservative or liberal in this current political climate," Lloyd said.

Sophomore Devanshu Singh, the president of IDEAL, had a similar takeaway. While noting that most participants took a left-wing approach, he said there was a diversity of opinion.

"There were some moments during the discussion when people really disagreed," he said. "Peo-

ple showed really reasonable responses."

Singh said he emerged with a broader understanding of the reasons behind the protest movement and found himself more sympathetic towards its goals.

"At the beginning of the talk, I didn't think it would be appropriate for someone to kneel during the National Anthem, but now I think it's completely fine," he said. "I don't think that sports should become a political arena, but I think when necessary and when it's a massive issue and there's no other platform, sports players can show their opinions."

Baltimore City celebrates Henrietta Lacks Day



COURTESY OF HOPE LACKS

Lacks' son and his wife pose with former mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.

By **KATY WILNER**
For *The News-Letter*

In early September, Mayor Catherine Pugh signed a bill from the City Council designating Oct. 4 as Henrietta Lacks Day.

Lacks was an African-American patient of Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 1950s diagnosed with cervical cancer. Her cells were taken without her consent and were used to create the first strain of self-replicating cells, known as HeLa cells.

Since then, they have led to some of the most significant discoveries in medical research. Public interest in Lacks and her family peaked upon publication of Rebecca Skloot's best-selling book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, which HBO adapted into a movie this year.

Pugh's bill is not the first Henrietta Lacks Day legislation. This summer, Gov. Larry Hogan announced Aug. 1 as Henrietta Lacks Day in Maryland. Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz also announced this year that the first Saturday of every August will be recognized as Henrietta Lacks Day in Baltimore County.

At the time of Lacks' death, there was no standard requirement for institutions to notify patients that their tissues would be taken for research purposes. Today, people continue to question the integrity of the Hospital's actions and some members of the Lacks family demand compensation.

Kim Hoppe, director of public relations and cor-

porate communications at Hopkins Medicine, commented Pugh's decision in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"Johns Hopkins applauds efforts to raise awareness of the life and story of Henrietta Lacks," Hoppe wrote.

"Since 2010, Johns Hopkins has worked closely with members of the Lacks family to develop a series of programs to recognize and honor Henrietta Lacks."

Students like freshman Patrick Rao are curious about what this day entails for the city and for Hopkins.

"Is the school going to do anything to celebrate the day?" Rao asked. "It would be awesome if Hopkins did something every October to remember her."

Students like freshman Kristofer Madu believe that the Hospital has yet to answer for taking Lacks' cells.

"Although this whole situation may seem in the past, in actuality its relevance remains," Madu said. "The Johns Hopkins Hospital and community should continue to strive to right the wrongs of the past and to grow to maintain its status as an internationally respected top-tier medical institute."

Freshman Alex Eremiev said that Pugh's decision is an appropriate tribute.

"It's important to spread awareness about what she did for science," Eremiev said. "A day dedicated to her is a good way to remember her."

Other students like freshman Rebecca Penner suggested that the controversies surrounding Lacks and the Hospital have negatively impacted the University's image outside of Baltimore.

"When [my Grandma's friend] heard I was go-

ing to Johns Hopkins, she wasn't congratulating me or anything because she said that the Henrietta Lacks stuff ruined the reputation of Johns Hopkins," Penner said.

Members of the Lacks family remain divided over whether Hopkins and Skloot have distorted Henrietta Lacks' legacy.

Earlier this year, Lacks' son Lawrence Lacks announced a lawsuit against the Hospital and accused Skloot of misrepresenting his family in her book, while Skloot claimed that she obtained source material and consent from other members of the family.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Anthony McCarthy, director of communications and community engagement for Mayor Pugh's office, expressed his hopes that Pugh's decision would draw more attention to Lacks and her contributions to medical research.

"It is my hope that this special day will renew interest in her life and legacy," he wrote.

"BALTIMORE'S BEST BREAKFAST & BURGER"

- City Paper

- Baltimore Magazine

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NEWS & FEATURES

Contract dining workers will receive higher wages



ELLIE HALLENBORG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

On March 15, the Student-Labor Action Coalition held a demonstration.

SLAC, FROM A1

he said that the University contacted the City Council to try to change the bill.

"My understanding is that Hopkins tried to get a waiver for smaller contract companies, so it would enact the law for big companies like Bon Appétit and Allied Universal, but for smaller contracts there wouldn't be displaced worker protection," he said.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Director of Media Relations Tracey Reeves explained that before the Council's bill, the University worked to make sure employees on campus could retain their positions when one contractor replaced another.

"The University did not oppose the ordinance providing job protection for contractor employees," she wrote. "The University recognizes that, on our own campuses, these contractors' employees are an important part of the campus community. They are known and very much appreciated by our students, faculty members and staff."

According to Reeves, the University suggested changes to the language of the bill and wanted to ensure that it would not conflict with existing University policies.

"Contractors who employ staff on our campus may do pre-employment criminal background checks or drug testing, in accordance with legal requirements on their own policy," she wrote. "We suggested changes in the legislative language to ensure there was no potential conflict between the new law and such pre-employment screening."

Emeline Armitage, the current co-president of SDS, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that the administration often claims that Hopkins is unable to influence conditions for contract workers. She disputes this claim.

"The University's lobbying for exemption in the job security bill is an example of their hypocrisy when it comes to their commitment to Baltimore," she wrote. "The majority of Hopkins workers are black Baltimoreans, and Hopkins is the biggest [private] employer in Baltimore, yet Hopkins will not commit to improving the lives of their employees with a completely reasonable request for job security."

Associate Professor of Sociology Joel Andreas said that the contracting system is disadvantageous to workers, because without job security, they have less power to negotiate their wages and other benefits.

He expanded on the University's response to the legislation on job security.

"What I understand is that the University was very much opposed to that law but that they tempered

their opposition because it would be bad publicity," he said. "The students have been so active in pushing this thing, and that was one of the workers' demands."

Andreas added that the University had previously opposed the campaign to raise Baltimore's minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Last spring, Mayor Catherine Pugh vetoed a \$15 minimum wage bill, even though she supported the measure during her mayoral campaign.

Payne said that SLAC will still pressure the University to raise the minimum wage to \$15 for all contract workers.

Recently, Local 7 negotiated a plan to raise Bon Appétit workers' wages to \$15 by 2019. Though Payne said that Hopkins was not involved in this negotiation, Palmer said that the union considered the measure a victory and attributed the success to pressure SLAC placed on the University.

"We were able to push Hopkins enough through the protests and the rallies and the demonstrations," she said. "In the next two years, every person walking in the door will be at \$15. For now they're getting about

\$14.40, next year it will be about \$14.80, and so the following year, which will be 2019, they'll be at \$15."

According to Armitage, SDS will continue to keep the administration accountable for their promises to workers, like the new measure to raise the minimum wage in the next two years.

"We are excited to hear the University agreed to a negotiation between Local 7 and Bon Appétit," she wrote. "However, we must also look back to past negotiations with the University, such as the livable wage campaign in the early 2000s and remember that it is crucial that this isn't just a one-off deal for the University. The University must understand that \$15 is not just a

number but a promise to treat employees more fairly."

Andreas said that a \$15 minimum wage is reasonable for workers.

"You can't live on less money than that, so they

can't expect people to live and raise families," he said.

Payne said that SLAC worked with students and members of Local 7 to compile a survey for contract workers at Hopkins. The survey revealed that many of these workers cannot support themselves on their current income levels.

"15.8 percent of the people we interviewed did not have enough money to make ends meet at the end of most

months, and another 42-44 percent indicated that they had just enough to make ends meet," Payne said.

SLAC has campaigned for the University to institute a program like Live Near Your Work for contract workers. Live Near Your Work grants loans for Hopkins staff to purchase homes near campus. Payne said that too many contract workers are struggling with low wages and fear for their housing or their jobs.

Palmer emphasized that the University has enormous influence that can affect its workers.

"It's a human rights issue," she said. "It's a Baltimore citizens, a Baltimore workers issue. So Hopkins definitely should weigh in on it."

She also said that Hopkins students can effectively pressure the University to make changes.

"The union is forever grateful and almost indebted to the students for joining us in

these fights," Palmer said. "Without them we would not get this far, because everybody knows that the students are where Hopkins gets its money from. Their time spent with us made a huge difference in the lives of at least 200 workers."

Emeline Armitage, the co-president of SDS, regularly contributes to the Opinions section of *The News-Letter*.

"The University must understand that \$15 is not just a number but a promise."

— EMELINE ARMITAGE, SDS CO-PRESIDENT

University now recognizes IX Society

By MORGAN OME & JACOB TOOK
News & Features Editors

Last semester, the University formally recognized IX Society (IX), an "underground" Hopkins-affiliated sorority established eight years ago. As a recognized student group, it will receive resources like liability insurance and training on hazing prevention and drug abuse.

Former members of the Hopkins sorority Kappa Alpha Theta (Theta) founded IX as an unofficial group in 2009 after the University revoked Theta's charter following a series of disciplinary infractions. According to a spring 2017 grade report for Greek life, IX now has 84 members.

Associate Dean of Student Engagement Tiffany Sanchez said that the University has been reaching out to unrecognized groups in order to ensure they are taking responsibility for the health and safety of their members.

"I'm sure there are very responsible and moral people in all groups across campus, but if you're in an unrecognized group, we don't have a formal method of being able to provide you with the resources that are available," she said. "Now we have a formal mechanism to be able to provide training, education and leadership opportunities."

According to the Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) website, the University's liability insurance policies do not cover underground organizations, because these organizations "do not adhere to any policies or procedures of the University and/or inter/national office."

Sanchez said that the administration and IX agreed to bring the organization under the University's authority.

"It was not an easy process," she said. "Any time you're trying to loop folks in, there's going to be negotiation and hard conversations."

FSL Director Calvin Smith explained that the process has been ongoing.

"Under the leadership of our former Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Students Terry Martinez and our Interim Dean of Students Tiffany Sanchez, we set out to work with students who may be engaging with organizations not formally recognized by the University," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Sanchez added that although administrators may have initiated contact, the process of recognizing IX was mutually agreed upon. She did not elaborate on the nature of the conversations.

"I think that's really important that [information] stays between the FSL Office and the group," she said. "I don't know how much of that information has been

shared beyond those conversations with other fraternities and sororities, and so I don't want to jeopardize the relationships that were built by sharing information out of turn."

Sanchez and Smith both stated that they do not know why Theta was suspended in 2009, as the disciplinary action occurred prior to their tenure as Hopkins administrators. Theta returned in 2013.

According to sophomore Dean Chien, Student Government Association (SGA) senator and the chair of SGA's Student Organizations Committee, SGA was not involved in the decision to recognize IX, although it is currently listed on the Hopkins organizations directory.

Typically, the Student Organizations Committee approves applications for groups supported by FSL and other administrative offices such as Student Leadership and Involvement (SLI). However, Chien clarified that SGA does not look at any applications for Greek life organizations.

"While it may be that IX Society submits an application form to SGA, we will not review them," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "We instead will refer such an application to [FSL]. [FSL] has the final say on whether IX society will be recognized."

The IX Society and the Pan-Hellenic Council declined to comment for this article.

Career Center expands employment resources

CAREER, FROM A1

she said. "Students should spend more time networking and talking to people and less time sending stuff in."

Garner emphasized that personal interactions carry more weight during the recruitment process.

"Even if you are qualified, you're going to be in a stack of two, three, four, five hundred resumes," she said. "What's going to distinguish you is someone who knows you and can vouch for you on the inside."

The Center has undertaken additional changes, like offering more networking sessions in addition to one-on-one appointments. Garner said that the Center is also providing more weekly drop-in sessions.

In order to build stronger relationships between students and employers, the Center will work on creating "In Baltimore," a program focused on securing Baltimore-based internships for students and funding unpaid internships.

"We already have some of those relationships through the Center for Social Concern (CSC), through the [Community Impacts Internship (CIIP)] Program," she said. "But we really want to build out our connection with Baltimore employers."

The Center is also trying to expand employer development efforts in Florida, Texas and the Midwest.

Garner explained that admissions data shows that more students are coming in from those areas of the U.S. and that currently most of the Center's employer development efforts are based in California, Washington, D.C. and New York City.

"A lot of times, our students want to go back home," she said. "We need to do a better job of connecting with our alums in those locations."

This year's Career Fair took place on Thursday, Sept. 28. A total of 105 companies registered for the Fair, 98 of which were present. This marks an increase from last year's Fair, which hosted 85 companies.

According to Garner, 17 employers at the Fair were willing to hire international students, higher than in previous years.

She said that it is difficult to have a diverse mix of employers because different industries have varying hiring timelines.

Garner added that scheduling programs around recruitment timelines may lead students to feel there is

a disproportionate focus on specific industries.

Senior Taylor Veracka has worked in the Career Center since before the Academies were implemented and has participated in the Arts, Media & Marketing and Nonprofit & Government Academies.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, she wrote that while she believes it is too early to fairly assess the Academies, she is looking forward to changes the Center is implementing.

"If you have [the] opportunity to meet and network with students who are interested in the same things as you are, who knows what opportunities they might provide you in the future?" Veracka wrote.

She encouraged other students to make use of these resources.

"It is a great way to build a network early, and I think it's very important that students make those connections sooner rather than later."

She added that students are responding positively to the program but feels that upperclassmen tend to lack awareness about the Academies and that the Center must continue expanding its outreach.

"I've been to a lot of the events this year, and students are definitely intrigued and responding well to the Academy system," Veracka wrote. "It's primarily freshmen and sophomores who have the most awareness of the Academies, because they've had the programming since the beginning."

On the other hand,

junior Lalit Varada has doubts over the efficacy of Academy programming weeks.

"It's a little inconvenient if all of the companies you want come in the same week because they're in the same industry," he said.

Senior Sophia Chen attended the Career Fair as well as the STEM fair that took place Sept. 20. She feels that the changes the Center is introducing are paying off.

"This year's Career Fair is much better," she said. "It's more organized, more advertised...[The Career Center] is doing a lot of things on campus."

Freshman Yumi Zhao said that the Career Fair was a good opportunity to familiarize herself with companies that were not necessarily related to her International Studies major.

"There are more finance companies, more research companies," she said. "But I think I still feel related to the companies here."



COURTESY OF SARAH Y. KIM

The Career Fair featured a diverse range of prospective employers.

NEWS & FEATURES

SGA releases freshman class election results

By **ALYSSA WOODEN**
News & Features Editor

Freshman class election results for the Student Government Association (SGA) were released on Tuesday. For the 2017-2018 academic year, the Freshman Class President is Sam Schatmeyer and the Freshman Class Senators are Evan Mays, Matt Taj, Coco Cai, Aspen Williams, Lauren Paulet and Nico Daurio.

The freshman class elections drew an increase in voter turnout, with 59 percent of the Class of 2021 voting compared to 57 percent of the Class of 2020.

Schatmeyer said that he decided to run for president in order to give back to the Hopkins community.

"[Hopkins] had already given me so much in terms of friendships and new experiences, new perspectives," he said. "I'm going to work my damndest to make sure I give as much to this class as I can for however long I'm blessed to be president."

Schatmeyer was class president for four years at his high school and plans to use that experience in his role as class president at Hopkins. He and the other candidates on his ticket, A Campaign for Inclusivity (CFI), plan to support a positive, diverse atmosphere on campus.

"We wanted to do that through funding different clubs and organizations," Schatmeyer said. "We wanted to do general programming events that brought the Class of 2021 together."

Paulet, Daurio and Mays were also on the CFI ticket. Paulet said that her passion for policy and desire to make an impact on the student body motivated her to run for SGA senator.

"I felt like I wanted to... leave a legacy at JHU and basically leave the position better off than I picked it up... not just for me but for the entire student body," she said.

She believes the administration should do more to recognize students of different backgrounds and plans to start initiatives to increase diversity on campus. Paulet described CFI's core values and goals and said that the ticket grew out of a political activism group chat for the Class of 2021.

"We wanted to really bridge our students together through our diversity and embrace different viewpoints on political issues," Paulet said.

Daurio expressed his desire to bring together the student body. He wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that he plans to focus on environmental sustainability.

Mays wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that he hopes to use his position in SGA to learn more about his fellow students, particularly by organizing bonding activities for freshmen.

"Our class is one of the most diverse classes yet. I see a great opportunity for us to all learn from each other and

grow together," he wrote.

Taj stressed a need for greater interaction between students and faculty.

"Offering things like events that would bring teachers out of their areas and into the students' comfort zones would [be] a huge help for both students and faculty," he said.

Cai plans to focus on improving school spirit and mental health. She wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that she hopes to create change and support her fellow students.

"As someone who's never done student government before, running for SGA at Hopkins was a completely new experience for me," she wrote. "It is such an amazing opportunity to represent the student body and make changes around the campus."

Williams, who decided to run for SGA in order to become more involved at Hopkins, said that she is interested in helping the freshman class build stronger connections with the Baltimore community.

"As people who are in a position of privilege, we should be doing what we can to help those around us," she said.

Schatmeyer agreed with Williams and believes that SGA has a responsibility to contribute to the Baltimore community.

"That community has given us a lot, certainly," he said. "As president here it's important to give back."

Paulet echoed Schatmeyer's sentiment and emphasized the need for increased interactions between the University and the City.

"There is a certain level of inequality that lies outside of our little Hopkins bubble, but that doesn't mean that we can't go out there and try to make a difference," she said.

As part of the election process, candidates were required to obtain 200 signatures from freshmen. Taj enjoyed the process as a way to meet new people and interact with his fellow students.

"It's really not that big of a deal," he said. "It's very simple because the students here, especially during orientation... they're really sociable and they want to talk to more people, so it's very easy to communicate with the voter base."

Paulet disagreed, stating that she found the required candidate petition forms made it difficult to connect individually with students.

"The point isn't really to promote myself," she said. "I didn't feel that the other candidates were really making an effort to really sit down and discuss the issues with the students."

Schatmeyer enjoyed the election process and is grateful for the opportunity to serve as class president.

"A big thank you to the Class of 2021," he said. "I'm really excited and honored that they elected me to lead them for this year."

Women's March organizers shed light on activism



EDA INCEKARA/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

The Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium (MSE) hosted founders of the Women's March.

SYMPOSIUM, FROM A1
American families. She addressed the dangers of relying solely on social media to promote change.

"There were marches before there was social media," Sarsour said. "Often-times what I see in this generation of activism is what I call 'slacktivism.' People think it's all about the clicking and the retweets, and that's important to put out a message, but it doesn't actually build power, it doesn't build influence and it doesn't actually make change."

The Women's March was the largest demonstration in the city since protests against the war in Vietnam during the 1960s and 70s. Over 500 sister marches took place on all seven continents.

Mallory worked with the Obama administration on issues such as civil rights, health care, gun violence and police misconduct. She said that it was only after the March that organizers realized how many people around the world had engaged in the demonstration.

"I had no idea, and I know none of us did, that people had turned out in the way in which they did," she said. "It was an incredible day that went beyond all of our expectations."

She said that she was overwhelmed when she saw footage on the news from other places like New York City and London that had joined the March.

"We were having moments of just feeling so overwhelmed by the support and the people who actually came out not for us but for their issues, for their families," Mallory said.

According to Sarsour, many were initially skeptical of the March's chances for success.

She attributed the skepticism to sexism, saying that some people were skeptical as to whether four women would be able to organize the March.

"It was almost like people were sitting back waiting for us to fail," she said. "We were not about to fail. Maybe we didn't get the first woman president in November, but you better damn believe that women were going to lead the largest single-day protest in U.S. history, and that is exactly what we did."

Perez is the executive director of The Gathering for Justice, a nonprofit which promotes civil and human rights. She discussed the importance of continuing the work of the Women's March.

"Ask yourself what tugs at your heart," she

said. "What do you actually care about? And look for an organization and connect with some people who are also working on that issue."

She urged audience members to start engaging in conversation with people of differing viewpoints, even if it is difficult.

"We want to feel safe in our communities, we want to go to schools that provide quality education, we want to take care of our families, but how we get there is sometimes different," she said. "What I encourage is to have courageous conversations and to connect to each other's humanity."

During the question-and-answer session, one audience member asked Sarsour about controversial comments she has made in the past.

As a Palestinian-American, Sarsour has voiced support for taking actions such as boycotts and sanctions against Israel, which some believe to be anti-Semitic.

However, she has also supported a one-state solution in which Palestine and Israel may coexist and acknowledges Israel's right to exist as a state.

In responding, Sarsour acknowledged the consequences of turning a blind eye towards anti-Semitism in this country, but added that she was tired of justifying her identity.

"It is not my job as a Palestinian Muslim-American woman to teach Jewish people or those that are pro-Israel that Palestinians too deserve dignity and self-determination and human rights," she said.

She elaborated on the importance of different

minority groups coming together to support one another.

"Sometimes you've got to show up in an organizing space that is not about you," she said. "I am a Palestinian, Muslim-American woman with light skin, and I show up in a black

spaces to organize about mass incarceration and the unarmed killing of black people."

MSE Programming Chair Rachel Biderman said that although allegations about Sarsour's anti-Semitism were taken into consideration when planning the Symposium, MSE chose to include her because of her status as a prominent activist.

"The MSE Symposium does not endorse the views of any of its speakers," Biderman wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "The purpose of the symposium is to serve as a platform for free speech, where people with different perspectives can express themselves in a productive, thought-provoking manner."

Despite criticism of Sarsour's participation in the event, Biderman supported MSE's decision to invite the organizers of the Women's March to campus.

"As with many of our past speakers, we received criticism with our choices and this year's lineup was no exception," she wrote.

Biderman wrote that MSE welcomes opposing viewpoints and asked students to redirect criticisms toward speakers.

"We believe that as prominent leaders of our generation, the Women's March organizers have important ideas to discuss... We appreciate any criticism but encourage those with these concerns to ask the speakers themselves."

Biderman also explained that the speakers had brought their own security and that MSE was prepared for any unrest or protests at the event.

Junior Woudese Befikadu addressed the contro-

versy surrounding Sarsour and previous alleged anti-Semitic comments.

"I don't think her views are anti-Semitic," Befikadu said. "She just said that she wants Palestinians to be recognized, and she even said they brought the Jewish community into the Women's March."

Befikadu said that she was studying abroad at the time of the Women's March and was unable to demonstrate. She said that she was interested in the organizer's efforts to include many different types of people.

"They answered the question about getting more men of color to get involved in feminism. It's not the 'struggle olympics.' They also have their own struggles, but they can get more educated on feminism and sexism," she said.

Freshman Clara Leverenz attended the Symposium because she attended the Women's March in New York City and was interested in hearing from the organizers.

"It was probably one of the best days of my life... I kinda wanted the solidarity again," she said.

The discussion panel inspired Leverenz to become more involved on campus.

"I liked what they were saying about the local level. We were thinking about having a follow-up discussion with the students. They were right — Hopkins isn't very political," she said.

Freshman Taylor Johnson, who also participated in the Women's March, was inspired after hearing the organizers speak.

"I was really moved by the Women's March, and I thought it would be really great to see some of the minds behind it, because I hadn't heard much about the organization," Johnson said.

Johnson was particularly interested in the organizers' ideas for promoting change at a local level.

"They focused on affecting change at an individual level and starting conversations within your own community," she said. "So many times you try to change as many minds as you can at once, but I thought that the individual level was a nice perspective. It was a new way of thinking about it."

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NEWS & FEATURES

MICA President discusses creativity in Baltimore

By VALERIE CHAVEZ
Senior Staff Writer

Samuel Hoi, president of the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), discussed creativity and urban transformation at the Hopkins Club on Wednesday.

Hoi said that part of MICA's mission statement is to thrive within Baltimore and build strong relationships with the city.

He shared his strategy for how MICA plans to help cooperate with the city, citing three main strategies: investing in places, systems and people.

Hoi explained the main tactics that help employ these strategies: connect, synergize and transform.

"If you think about the connect, it is about building new systems. Synergize is about teaching people the new initiatives and methodologies," Hoi said. "Then transform, of course, is about bettering our communities. And if you do this right, we'll eventually make the city a better place."

Hoi explained why he thought MICA's presence was of particular importance in Baltimore. He said that in order to recruit students and build a strong college, the city must be strong as well. Additionally, Hoi argued that promoting creative pursuits in the city can help its overall vitality.

"Arts and culture are a proven catalyst for economic development and also for strengthening communities," Hoi said. "So by investing in and [amplifying] our city residents' creative capacity and self expression, we can build resilience and sustainability in the city."

MICA has grown significantly in the last few decades. In the '80s, the campus contained only a few buildings, and it now has over 35 buildings.

As the school has expanded, Hoi said the college has done its best to expand responsibly throughout the city.

Hoi explained that the school tries to leave the character of the neighborhood intact, while extending its creative energy to "blighted" parts of the city, including the Station North neighborhood.

"Our commitment is to help preserve the history and preserve the land value of our neighbors," Hoi said. "We try to be responsible to our neighborhood and help keep the city's character while improving its vitality."

MICA is also working to create new networks and systems within Baltimore. Hoi explained that

the school is launching a new 10-year multi-sector coalition to stimulate the creative economy in Baltimore.

For example, the Baltimore Creative Acceleration Network is an entrepreneurial program that provides mentorship programs, resources and other support to artists within the city, even those not necessarily affiliated with MICA.

Hoi added that creativity can help stimulate the growth in Baltimore.

"We need a new kind of middle class to come back in," he said. "We have such a vibrant art scene here if we enable our creatives to make a better living and use their creativity. They are the new middle class. They are the new small and mid-sized industries, and MICA hopes to stimulate that new creative class."

MICA is also branching out their course offerings and launching more interdisciplinary programs, like its new program in game design.

The school also has a dual degree program with the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School.

Students in this program receive degrees from both institutions and earn both a Master of Arts and a Master of Business Administration.

"At MICA what we are actively trying to do is to integrate art and design with other disciplines in Baltimore, such as technology health, science and business, for a new kind of innovation," Hoi said. "We feel that these other fields actually don't realize what they are missing yet."

Additionally, Hoi said that the school is shifting its philosophy to help prepare students for interdisciplinary work in the changing times. He said MICA is aiming to produce global citizens that can engage thoughtfully in their local environment.

"At MICA we are now embracing a very holistic pedagogy that prepares our students to embrace an expanded role for creatives to not only excel in galleries and graphic design studios but to be active in social, economic and cultural change," Hoi said.

Hoi concluded by sharing MICA's new mission.

"[Our mission] is to empower students to forge creative purposeful lives and careers in a diverse and changing world, thrive with Baltimore, make the world we imagine," he said. "We are one of the only art schools in the country who have built in our roots in Baltimore as part of our mission."

Puerto Rican students rally after Hurricane Maria



COURTESY OF MORGAN OME
Following the deadly hurricane, students painted the Puerto Rican flag on the Blue Jay statue.

PUERTO RICO, FROM A1
Delgado is the Hopkins contact for Students with Puerto Rico, an initiative started by students at the University of Pennsylvania for Hurricane Maria relief efforts.

Using a GoFundMe page, the initiative seeks to encourage Puerto Rican college students to raise money for Unidos por Puerto Rico, a hurricane relief fund set up by the First Lady of Puerto Rico. To date, Students with Puerto Rico has raised over \$160,000.

The bake sale, which occurred last Friday, raised over \$3000, exceeding the students' initial goal of \$1000. Delgado said that she

was surprised by the overwhelming support from the Hopkins community.

"Random people who saw the event on Facebook messaged me and [asked] if they could help," she said. "People were Venmo-ing, people were paying with cash, people were paying with J-Cash."

According to a poll of 2,200 people by Morning Consult, a nonpartisan survey research company, only 54 percent of Americans know that Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens. The poll also showed that 80 percent of Americans who know Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens support U.S. aid for Puerto Rico. In con-

trast, only 44 percent of those who do not know Puerto Ricans are citizens support aid.

Junior Puerto Rican student Nikki Lopez Suarez said that she was not surprised that many are unaware of Puerto Ricans' citizenship status.

"Even before Hurricane Maria, I've been asked countless times if I'm an international student," she said. "Do I have citizenship? Do I have a green card?"

The lack of awareness, Muniz believes, has affected how the government and public have responded to Hurricane Maria.

"So many Americans don't know that Puerto Ricans are American citizens and this is an American humanitarian crisis," Muniz said. "If this was in Florida, if this was in Texas, if this was anywhere in one of the states, I think you'd see that the response would be

drastically different."

Since Puerto Rico is an unincorporated U.S. territory and not a state, Puerto Ricans are not allowed to vote in presidential elections and are only allowed to send one non-voting representative to Congress.

An additional complication is the Jones Act, formally known as the Merchant Marine Act of 1920. The Jones Act is a shipping law that requires goods shipped between U.S. ports to be carried by vessels that are built, owned and crewed by U.S. citizens or permanent residents. In effect, this Act restricts foreign ships from shipping aid to Puerto Rico.

U.S. President Donald Trump temporarily waived the Act on Sept. 28. According to *The New York Times*, several members of Congress requested the suspension in order to ease and expedite the flow of relief aid into Puerto Rico.

According to Muniz, the Jones Act has caused problems for Puerto Ricans, and he criticized Trump for waiting so long to waive it.

"A lot of the factors that make it harder for Puerto Rico are a result of the colonial status and antiquated policies... like the Jones Act for example," he said. "It took them so long to waive the Jones Act, when that should have been the first thing they did."

Montane was happy to see the Jones Act suspended, although the measure is only temporary. She also believes that Puerto Rico's status as a territory makes it more difficult for citizens to make their voice heard.

"I literally teared up when they removed it," she said. "I recognize how much a little thing like that could [make] change, and if we did have more representation, that could definitely make a difference."

Although many have praised the suspension of the Jones Act, others have criticized Trump and his administration's response to Hurricane Maria. In particular, critics have condemned the federal government for not adequately providing aid to the island. Delgado said that it is imperative for the government to respond quickly.

"It took the U.S. government a while to react to what was going on," she said. "Puerto Rico is able to react and make moves, but we clearly do need help."

For Suarez, the attention on Trump's response to Hurricane Maria has been misplaced. She believes that the government should focus on helping Puerto Ricans recover.

"It's been a very politicized disaster," she said. "This isn't about political parties. It's literally a humanitarian crisis. People are taking their Clorox bottles to a stream to get water. That is completely insane."

Though Suarez feels supported by the Hopkins community, she said it is still difficult to be away from Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

"You obviously can't do much when you're [in Puerto Rico] either, and my parents want me to be here at school," she said. "But honestly, your mind and your heart are with your family, with the people you love and with your friends that are still on the island."

Author explores anti-fascist movements

By ANNA GORDON
Staff Writer

Mark Bray, an organizer of the Occupy Wall Street movement, spoke at Red Emma's bookstore about his new book, *The Anti-Fascist Handbook* on Thursday, Sept. 28. Occupy Wall Street was a global movement that started in New York City in 2011 to protest against worldwide economic inequality.

In his book, Bray explains the history of anti-fascist movements and explores how many fascist leaders initially come to power democratically.

He elaborated on that in his talk, saying that fascist leaders typically don't "storm down the gates" in order to attain power, but rather they have those metaphorical gates opened.

"Mussolini and Hitler were appointed," he said. "Their parties gained control not by staging revolutions but by working essentially within the parliamentary process. So if that's the case we can see that the classically liberal prescription for stopping fascism is seriously flawed."

In particular, Bray felt that many liberals overestimate the power of rational discourse or satire to stop fascism.

"A lot of people made really strong arguments against fascism and the Nazis in the '20s and '30s," he said. "We can see that even satire, which I think has an important role in any political struggle, was not enough on its own. Charlie Chaplin made fun of Hitler and later regretted to some extent his portrayal for not having taken it seriously enough."

Bray also took issue with the belief that law enforcement can help stop fascism. He claimed that police have historically been more likely to vote for fascist parties

than the general population, as was the case in Germany and France in the 1920s and '30s.

In particular, Bray believes American police officers were unreliable in combatting fascism and white supremacy.

"The FBI has been investigating white power infiltration into local law enforcement," Bray explained. "Where were the police in Charlottesville? They were standing aside. I saw one video of a police helping a fascist group in a way they never would have done in a Black Lives Matter march."

Bray criticized the idea that government checks and balances could prevent fascism as well. He used the example of Hitler's rise to power in Germany, saying that many fascist leaders can manipulate the government during times of crisis.

According to Bray, this reasoning justifies why movements like Antifa believe that democratic governments are unreliable in fighting fascism.

"Militant anti-fascists don't see parliamentary government as a reliable bulwark against fascism," he said. "They argue that you have to stop it before we even have this conversation."

Bray said he supported the anti-fascist movement and emphasized the importance of supporting minority communities as opposed to simply siding with public opinion.

"Anti-fascism encourages us not to necessarily reject popular politics but to think about how we organize social movements

by focusing on defending communities and populations under attack, how to stop fascism and work towards building support from that basis rather than starting from popular opinion," he said.

Former Baltimore City Council President Lawrence Bell agreed with Bray's message but was worried that the audience was not large enough.

"This is a progressive group, so we're kind of preaching to the choir, but I think that we got to find a way to get this information out to people, typically people who are in the mainstream media, because it's not always that they are right wing. Sometimes it's just plain ignorance," he said.

Bell also felt that Americans in particular lack the historical knowledge necessary to understand fascism.

"A lot of Americans really don't know and they don't realize that Hitler and the Nazis started off small but they would intimidate everybody, particularly people on the left," he said. "Because they were never confronted on that level, they grew."

Baltimore resident Emily Werner agreed that Bray's analysis of the Antifa movement was important especially in the current political climate.

"I think it was an informative talk. He admitted that the book was pretty Eurocentric, but I guess if you have a page limit then that's necessary," she said. "It's really important that literature like this is coming out."



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Samuel Hoi discussed the relationship between Baltimore and MICA.

Seniors: Do you create dance, music, theater, digital or visual art?



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VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

Finding my culture in a VHS copy of Totoro



Meagan Peoples
Think about it

One of the first movies I ever watched was *Tonari no Totoro* (sometimes referred to as *My Neighbor Totoro* by people who speak English). My sister had a small TV in her room. It wasn't connected to cable, but it did have a VHS player built into it. In the age where even CDs seem retro, it's weird to think that my main source of media consumption used to come from something you had to manually rewind.

Later, when we realized that library was actually good for something, we would rent videos to watch together. It was on that small screen that I watched *The Princess Bride*, I was introduced to the Sailor Scouts and that I first saw *Totoro*.

I'm going to be honest, I didn't like it as much as other animated things I'd seen. The giant monster thing freaked me out more than a little, and the cat bus kind of grossed me out (it had freaking windows made of fur). But it was more or less the first look I had into Japanese culture.

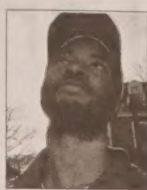
For context, my mom is a Japanese immigrant, and my dad's lineage could be visually described as a kind of porridge, because it's just different shades of white. I, the offspring of this culture clash, am white. Like, really white, like Paul Ryan's wet dream white. So it had always been a little bit hard for me to identify with the matriarchal side of my cultural inheritance.

It didn't help that I lived in suburban Massachusetts (read: a beautiful but impressively Caucasian place) or that my mom felt she had to isolate us from the Japanese language, culture and traditions in order to help us fit in with the other kids at school.

So when I first watched *Totoro*, a movie where even the English title sounds foreign, it really felt like a bridge into understanding this other half of myself. *Totoro* is a hugely important cultural touchstone within Japan. In fact there is even a movement named after the movie to preserve natural areas within Tokorozawa city. Even now you can find stuffed animals, stickers and other paraphernalia of all the different characters (including the Catbus for some reason).

Though I wouldn't say it gave me a comprehensive (or particularly realistic) view of what life was like in Japan, it wasn't the worst introduction I could have had to my heritage.

Coming to terms with my ex-roommate's arrest for child porn



Jordan Britton
Guest Columnist

As my time at Hopkins nears its end, I've begun reflecting heavily on the past few years. I have found myself confronting unresolved feelings lingering from some of my more challenging moments at Hopkins.

While I do not shy away from talking about my past experiences, good or bad, I seldom express the emotions and trauma packaged with those memories. Rather, I opt to repress those feelings and hide them from others and even myself.

As I have often said, repressing things never actually works. This statement never felt truer to me than it did a few weeks ago, when I found myself in the middle of an existential crisis. For two weeks straight, I lost all sense of self. My mind became a literal hellscape, and the demons within became irreconcilable. I managed to pull myself out of that dark place and began facing my demons. In writing this piece, I am confronting one of those demons.

Prior to March 27, 2015, the idea that I or any of my friends would involve ourselves in something that would result in local, state and federal agents knocking on our front doors was inconceivable.

In my junior year, I lived in an off-campus apartment with two roommates, who will be referred to as Josie and Liz. Both Josie and Liz were students at Hopkins at the time. We had all known each other since the fall of 2012. It was safe to say that we all knew each other well.

On the morning of March 27, I woke up around 7 a.m. on the living room couch to the sound of banging at the front door. We lived in a second-floor apartment of a Charles Village row home, so we shared the main entrance and stairway with another resident. I assumed it was the downstairs neighbor trying to get our attention after locking himself out.

I hurried out of my apartment. Opening the door, I found myself face to face with several officers of the law. I noticed that one of them was holding a battering ram. I don't think I had noticed just how small that hallway was until it was just filled with me, four Maryland State Troopers, two Homeland Security agents and one Baltimore police officer. I started wondering what would have happened if I hadn't answered the door in time.

One of the State Troopers began questioning me about my identity and place of residence. He had seen the names on the mailboxes, so he knew who my roommates were. Then the officer asked about the whereabouts of Josie. Still in shock, I pointed them up the stairs to the open door of our apartment. The officer asked me if there were any other people in the apartment, and I informed him about Liz.

All the officers then proceeded to rush up the

stairs, leaving me at the bottom. A moment later, they brought Liz down to wait in the hallway with me. I don't remember how long we waited down there, but it felt like an eternity. Eventually, they allowed us back into the apartment, but they escorted Josie out.

For one to two hours, we sat in the living room, watching the officers search through our apartment and Josie's belongings. The Homeland Security agents did most of the searching and focused primarily on Josie's electronics and the internet modem.

One of the officers continued to survey the apartment, and the lead officer questioned Josie in a police van outside. The remaining three stood around waiting to be given a task and kept an eye on us. They joked around, told stories and gossiped. They even engaged me and Liz in small talk and asked us about our studies.

To them, it was like any other day. I didn't know why they wanted my roommate. Due to their demeanor, I started thinking that Josie's crime wasn't that bad. I even speculated that he was probably just collateral in an investigation of someone else. I convinced myself that things would be okay.

The lead officer requested one-on-one conversations with Liz and me. Liz talked to him first. They went into one of the bedrooms and closed the door. After about 30 minutes, Liz and the of-

ficer exited the room.

It was now my turn. The officer led me into the room and then closed the door behind me. We sat in two chairs positioned to be facing each other, and then he introduced himself. I don't remember his name. I don't even think I listened when he told me the first time.

The conversation began with him asking me a few questions relating to knowledge about file sharing sites and torrenting. I am not a computer savvy person, so I didn't know much. I assume that, for the most part, my answers were unhelpful to their investigation.

Even - tually, the questioned stopped. The officer pulled out the search warrant and handed it to me. He started explaining why they were in our apartment that day and went over the details of my roommate's crime.

My roommate Josie wasn't someone you would peg for a felon. He was known to be affectionate and goofy. He was the kind of guy who spent his free time watching anime or playing his Nintendo 3DS. He loved taking care of his fish, two guinea pigs and many plants.

His habits, mannerisms and interests paralleled those of child. He was the embodiment of innocence.

The cloud of innocence surrounding Josie's childish demeanor dissipated as the words detailing his crime fell from the officer's lips. When I walked into that room, I saw Josie as a child at heart. When I walked out, I didn't

even want to put "Josie" and "child" in the same sentence.

The officer informed me they were arresting Josie for the possession of child pornography.

Throughout the conversation, the officer periodically asked if I had any knowledge about my roommate's activities. I said no. He asked if Josie had ever shared or hinted at his proclivities. Again, I told him no.

Eventually, we got onto the topic of Josie's work-study job. See, Josie worked at an after-school program for elementary and middle school-aged kids. He primarily worked with third and fourth graders, and according to the officer, Josie admitted to being the most attracted to that age group.

Very few things in life can prepare a person for finding out their close friend is a pedophile charged with possession of child pornography. I know for sure that neither I nor my friends were prepared. Our reactions ranged from anger, to dismissiveness, to doubt and to acceptance. It challenged our conceptions of loyalty and exposed diametrically opposed ideologies.

Josie's arrest broke us and it broke our friendships. Personally, his arrest left me feeling suspicious of everyone around me. Trust became a foreign concept. In the following weeks, I would break down from flashbacks of the police rushing in and bombarding me with questions.

While writing this piece, I found myself racing to finish. Even though I wanted to tell my story, I didn't like the process of telling it. It is hard to discuss situations that hurt us and tear away our sense of security.

Marvel's The Gifted shows promise while Inhumans falls flat



Catherine Palmer
Catwoman

In less than a week, Marvel showcased the worst and best it has to offer on network television with the debuts of *Inhumans* on ABC and *The Gifted* on Fox.

Inhumans, which premiered Friday, chronicles the upheaval in Attilan, a secret city of superhumans located on the Moon, after its Inhuman Royal Family is overthrown.

The two-hour pilot is predictable, agonizingly slow-paced and full of over-the-top special effects and costumes, painfully expository dialogue and characters that you're given no reason to care about.

The central conflict of *Inhumans* revolves around the rivalry between Black Bolt (Anson Mount), the king of Attilan, and his brother Maximus (Iwan Rheon). Both are members of the Inhuman race, but only Black Bolt has powers.

Maximus is akin a squib in *Harry Potter*, but he still has the prestige of being a

member of the royal family.

His fellow squibs are relegated to the lowest social caste and forced to work in the mines, a fact which Maximus deeply resents. He petitions his brother to lead the Inhumans back to Earth, but Black Bolt refuses, fearing a war with humanity.

Maximus then leads a coup against his family. I found them all so boring that I didn't care about their fate. But fortunately for them, Maximus' uprising doesn't go according to plan.

The highlight of the episode for me was a wardrobe change. When his sister-in-law Medusa (Serinda Swan) refuses to side with Maximus, he shaves off her hair, which she had the ability to control and use as a weapon.

Swan's emotional performance was greatly overshadowed by the joy I felt at no longer having to see her ridiculously long, clown-red, Party City quality wig.

The show's only real point of intrigue for me was wondering which character I was supposed to be rooting for: Black Bolt, a weak king upholding an unjust social structure, or Maximus, a murderous turncoat who is actually fighting for social justice and a better life for his people.

However, that question alone isn't enough make me want to tune in again.

The Gifted, which premiered Monday, offered a

welcome return to Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) standards.

Set in a gritty world in which the X-Men have disappeared and mutants face persecution, the show follows two storylines. The first is focused on an Atlanta-based mutant underground society after one of their leaders gets captured and the second on a family after their children are exposed as mutants and hunted by the government.

The pilot effectively sets up tension, suspense and characters you can invest in. The storyline moves along at a refreshingly fast pace and offers action that will keep your eyes glued to the screen.

In an engaging cold open, leaders of the mutant underground Marcos "Eclipse" Diaz (Sean Teale), Lorna "Polaris" Dane (Emma Dumont) and John "Thunderbird" Proudstar (Blair Redford) rescue fugitive mutant Clarice "Blink" Fong (Jamie Chung) from the police.

Elsewhere in Atlanta, teenager siblings, Lauren (Natalie Alyn Lind) and Andy Strucker (Percy Hynes White), go to their school dance. Andy is dragged into a locker room by the bullies, who hold him down under freezing and scalding water.

Overcome by rage, Andy begins destroying the locker room and gym with seemingly telekinetic powers,

which he was not aware he possessed and is unable to control. Lauren is revealed to be a mutant as well when she shields her classmates from falling debris by manipulating the air around her to create force fields.

Lauren calms Andy down, and they rush home only to be found by the Sentinel Service, a federal agency devoted to hunting down mutants. They go on the run with their flustered mom Caitlin (Amy Acker) and hesitantly meet up with their devastated father Reed (Stephen Moyer), who prosecutes mutants for a living.

My favorite part of the episode was a scene in which Lauren tries to help Andy learn to control his powers by practicing moving snacks inside a motel vending machine. Andy loses control and destroys the machine. Lauren shields him from the blast and takes a glass shard to her wrist.



GAGE SKIDMORE/CC BY-SA 2.0
Iwan Rheon, best known as Ramsay Bolton, stars in *Inhumans* as Maximus.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

Next time someone criticizes you, say “so what?”



Divya Parekh
Copy Queen

In India, an “aunty” is a very special, strange kind of human. An aunty can be your middle-aged neighbor. She can be what some of your high school teachers turn into after you graduate. She can be one of the women in your parents’ friend group. She can be that relative who talks about how much you’ve grown every time she sees you. An aunty will tell you that you should eat less while simultaneously being emotionally wounded if you say no when she offers you food. But most importantly, an aunty is someone who will always comment on your weight. So what if you’ve come back home after being gone for over a year. There’s one thing that’s always more important than any other thing you might have done or accomplished during that time away. It’s always the same. There’s that glance as you walk into a room, then an

awfully awkward, lingering pause, which is followed by the dreaded, “... You’ve put on weight.” If you’re someone who’s plagued by the comments of aunts, don’t worry. I have a tried-and-tested method for disabling the aunty. It’s just two words: So what? This works, people, this works better than anything I’ve ever seen work before. She’ll first look confused. Then she’ll shake her head vigorously and insist she didn’t mean anything by it, that it was just an observation that you’ve put on weight. That’s when you say it again: So what? This will turn into an excruciatingly long but oddly satisfying cycle where the aunty continues to dig herself into an even deeper hole that she can only get out of by abruptly starting a conversation with your mom. This means you’ve won. Congratulations. In the two weeks I spent back home over the summer, I had to use this method too many times, too many times to even count. After a certain point, it stops feeling like a victory. It just feels hopeless.

One of these battles lasted a lot longer than the others. This person asked me why I didn’t find time to go to the gym — they said that as soon as I entered the room. The first thing they noticed was how much weight I’d put on. And it just never ended. I wanted to scream. I fell off a horse. Because of the injuries, I wasn’t allowed to do things at the gym. I wasn’t even allowed to walk for more than an hour at a time. It’s been nine months since the fall and I’ve only just been given permission to use the elliptical. My parents saw that I was upset, but all they said was that this is how it is. This is how people are. Forget about it and move on. It’s hard to just move on though. Most of my closest friends are athletes, and I know what people think when they see us together. How is she friends with them? How did that even happen? And I answer the question, but why was I asked it in the first place? Asking myself this question, it’s hard for me not to think of the way I look. You can see it in our

group pictures — the difference between the way they look and the way I do. Here’s the thing about those pictures, though: I’m always smiling, because in that moment I feel like I belong. That’s the kind of feeling I’ve been trying to hold on to, and for the most part, I succeed. Two weeks ago, however, another student called me a “fat fuck.” As soon as he said that, I started feeling physically sick. My throat felt oddly constricted, and those words have been gnawing away at me ever since. I wrote this mainly so I could work through those feelings, and I thought (and hoped) that I’d reach some big reconciliation by the end of it, so that maybe I wouldn’t feel my insides twisting every time I think about that comment. Here I am, at the end of the article, and I don’t want to forget about it and move on. But you, the aunts and the student I won’t name because he’s already in danger of severe physical harm from my friends, you forgot. You moved on. None of what you said to me has impacted your life. You probably don’t even remember you said it. So here’s me writing about it, hoping you remember, hoping it gnaws at you just a little. And here’s me hoping you change.

The first thing they noticed was how much weight I’d put on.

Awkward sex dreams and how to manage them



Dear Jenny
Anonymous Advice Column

Hello again! It’s me, Jenny S. Hopkins, your resident anonymous advice columnist. I hope you all are taking care of yourselves as the perpetual midterm season descends upon us. For me personally, it’s been difficult to make time for things other than studying. This weekend, I went on a road trip down south. Getting off campus really helped me clear my mind and gave me a nice break from the daily grind here at Hopkins. If October is making you feel overwhelmed or you are in need of advice, don’t forget that you can always submit your questions to me at dearjennyshopkins@gmail.com. Anyway, let’s move onto this week’s question. In my previous column, I heard from a reader who was struggling to make Baltimore feel more like home. This week we’re switching gears completely to a topic of a more intimate nature. That’s right, today we’re talking about S-E-X, baby. Dear Jenny S. Hopkins, I had a sex dream about someone who’s not my boyfriend, and it’s made me feel really uncomfortable.

I know that you can’t control what you dream about at night, and I know that it doesn’t mean that I am not in love with my boyfriend (I love him very much and my attraction for him hasn’t decreased at all). But what do I do about this awkwardness I feel around the person? It makes me feel embarrassed whenever I see him. Signed, Confused and Embarrassed Dear Confused, I’ve decided to simply address you as “Confused” because in my opinion you have nothing to be embarrassed or ashamed about. Sexual desires are normal; Sex dreams are, too. Your question, though, is a good one. Many people have experienced the old “I had a sex dream about my friend” dilemma. What does it all mean? Should you psychoanalyze your dream? Should you try to pretend the dream never happened?

Everything. There are many reasons for which you might have dreamt about your friend. Maybe you are craving a closer relationship with this person or you want to get to know them better. Alternatively, there may be qualities that you admire about your friend that you subconsciously want to take on. Or maybe you are simply attracted to your friend. There’s nothing wrong with that. Does this mean you’re being unfaithful? Certainly not. You can’t help who you find attractive. I will say that if the sex dreams become a common occurrence, it may be worth examining your current relationship and determining if there is anything lacking, namely intimacy. Physical and emotional intimacy are both important parts of a healthy relationship, so just check in with yourself to make sure your needs are being met. We could talk all day about the psychological

motives behind your sex dreams, Confused, but that’s a rabbit hole I feel is not worth going down. So let’s move on to the heart of the matter: the fact that your dream is impacting your real life. I can understand that you may feel uncomfortable around this person now that you have seen them in a different way. In terms of what to do about the awkwardness, you just have to tough this one out, especially if you see your friend often. Don’t avoid them. Talk about things you normally talk about. Sit next to them. Say hi. It might sound crazy for me to be making these recommendations because all of this seems so intuitive, but sometimes you have to go through the motions until you feel a little less awkward. In time, the awkwardness will pass. Until then, sweet dreams. May they be restful and unsexy. Best, Jenny S. Hopkins



Jenny reminds us that sex dreams are totally natural and that they’re nothing to be ashamed about.

Songs to make you feel at peace

“Tell Me If You Wanna Go Home” from the *Begin Again* soundtrack: I haven’t even watched this movie but Keira Knightley sings this song and I think that’s enough said.

“Vienna” by Billy Joel: My favorite line is “take the phone off the hook and disappear for a while” because who doesn’t want to do that?

“Hard Times” by Paramore: This is the chilliest, happiest song about hard times that you’ll ever hear.

“The Song of Purple Summer” from the *Spring Awakening* soundtrack:

Another musical I haven’t seen, but this song soothes me. Sometimes I wonder if watching the musical would make me like it more or less.

“My Type” by Saint Motel: It’s jazzy and it has the line “you’re just my type, you’ve got a pulse and you are breathing.”

“Little Of Your Love” by HAIM: Does HAIM even make songs that aren’t chill?

“The River of Dreams” by Billy Joel: Oh, hey there, Billy. It’s you again. Have I mentioned I’m from Long Island?

“I’m Still Here (Jim’s Theme)” by John Rzeznik: This song is from the *Treasure Planet* soundtrack, you should watch it. It’s *Treasure Island*... in SPACE.

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NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Trapped in a cycle of mass shootings:
When will enough be enough?

“Monday morning, our campus awoke to the news of a tragedy unfolding.”

We began an editorial with these very words ten years ago after the then-deadliest mass shooting in American history — Virginia Tech. We are writing these same words again.

A nightmare in Las Vegas left 59 dead and more than 500 wounded in what is now the largest mass shooting in United States history.

In 2007, most of us were ending our years in elementary school. Since then, we’ve lived through this nightmare countless times. Sandy Hook Elementary School. Aurora. Charleston. Orlando. There are too many to list.

We have grown increasingly desensitized to the prospect of the next mass shooting. Unlike our parents, we can’t imagine a world where this cycle doesn’t exist. We’ve become disillusioned about any sort of constructive conversations about changing this status quo.

We know writing an editorial about this is not going to solve the problem of gun violence and mass shootings in this country. However, there is a troubling pattern that must be addressed.

After each national tragedy, the same sentiments and arguments blare on the news. The same horrified pieces run in our newspapers. The same shock permeates our student body. And then it all winds down, faster every time, because we’re growing numb to the trauma.

Everything is quiet until the next tragedy occurs and we’re thrown back into the same loop we’ve grown up in.

It’s been ten years since the Editorial Board wrote about Virginia Tech, and now the country is in the same situation because of our elected leaders have failed to act.

Ten years ago, we called for reducing the number of guns in our country, and now we are calling for it again. The United States had and has the highest concentration of guns per capita in the world.

We are trapped in this cycle when these guns keep falling into the hands of the wrong people.

What are we going to hear on the news next? How are we going to break the cycle?

The Career Center’s new Academies
show promise

Over the past several years, the Career Center has gone through a comprehensive restructuring to better serve students as they prepare to enter the workforce.

One of the major changes includes Career Academies, which are networks of employers, alumni and faculty centered around a specific industry that students may use in their professional pursuits.

These six new Academies are Arts, Media & Marketing, Consulting, Finance, Health Sciences, Nonprofit & Government and STEM & Innovation.

We are heartened to see that there is a wide range of professions relevant to Hopkins students covered by these Academies.

The Career Center is also holding career weeks dedicated to each of the academies offering panels, information sessions and networking events.

The weeks are scheduled based on recruitment timelines for each industry. For example, the Consulting Academy Week was held in mid-September since that is the peak hiring period for consulting firms.

These changes illustrate how the Career Center is making conscious decisions on how they can best cater to students.

The Career Center is also developing an “In Baltimore” program designed to connect students with Baltimore employers and local internships. The Center hopes to be able to offer financial support to students involved in the program who take unpaid internships.

We believes these new initiatives are substantial improvements to the Career Center. These Academies include a diverse

range of professional networks that can benefit many students on campus, and the “In Baltimore” program is a great way to increase student involvement and investment in our city.

It is still early in the school year and we hope that the Career Center will continue their current efforts. Moving forward, the Center should continue to take steps to ensure more students engage with and take advantage of the new opportunities available. The programs will only be effective if students are aware of them.

However, it’s also up to us to take the initiative and use the new resources the Career Center has developed over the past couple of years. We must then offer feedback so that the Center can continue to refine its services.

LETTERS & OP-ED POLICY

The News-Letter encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter* reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon submission, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of *The News-Letter*. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 400 words, must address content previously published in *The News-Letter*, and must include the author’s name. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week’s issue; they should be sent to chiefs@jhunewsletter.com (with “Letter to the editor” in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact opinions@jhunewsletter.com. Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

Submittal of an op-ed and/or letter to the editor acknowledges your acceptance of and agreement to these policies. Any questions about these policies should be directed to the Editors-in-Chief of *The News-Letter* at chiefs@jhunewsletter.com.

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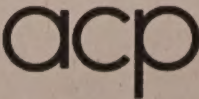
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OPINIONS

Conservative views are being unfairly silenced on campus



PUBLIC DOMAIN

O'Donnell points to disruptions of free speech at UC Berkeley as evidence of silencing.

By JAMES O'DONNELL

Police in riot gear. Black-garbed teenagers throwing Molotov cocktails. Yelled slurs, angry chanting, camera crews everywhere. This may sound like an occurrence from 50 years ago and half a world away, but it's in Berkeley, California, and it's happening now.

The circus that is our political world has leaked into college campuses, leaving behind a residue of mistrust and hatred. And worst of all? It's now socially acceptable to use violence and threats to shut down different opinions, as students did last week when they shut down the University of California, Berkeley's (UC Berkeley) Free Speech Week.

A clash between politically correct and pro-free speech cultures has gripped universities across the country, leaving students angry and unwilling to listen to other viewpoints if they are different from their own.

Both sides of the clash are guilty of this, certainly. At events I have attended in New York, I have listened as chants of "MAGA" and "racists" attempted to drown each other out. This being said, members of the left are particularly at fault in attempting to silence the voices of a conservative minority on campuses.

Now before you mount your self-righteous high horse, please note that I am not victimizing conservatives and vilifying liberals here. Both camps need to work on having a more respectful dialogue with one another. However liberals have caused far more detriment to the classic American principle of free speech on campuses than conservatives have.

Still, having to argue this point feels ridiculous to me. It's clearly true. For every example of a liberal speaker being blocked by campus conservatives, I could give 10 for every conservative blocked by liberals. Unfortunately it goes much further than simply blocking speeches.

We have reached such a boiling point on campuses that now 20 percent of undergrads across the nation think that it is totally fine to use physical force to silence those who make "offensive and hurtful" comments, according to *The Washington Post*.

Comments can be extremely hurtful, and hate speech is wrong in every regard, but the umbrella of offensiveness has grown too large.

One of hundreds of idiotic examples of this occurred last May, when students at the University of Michigan felt "marginalized" by wood paneling in a renovated building. Worst of all is our generation's willingness to com-

bat other opinions with violence when we decide that angry Facebook posts are not enough.

Hence we watch fights between peaceful conservative protesters and the Antifa, liberal "activists" attacking police with Molotov cocktails and students throwing stones at a conservative speaker. This behavior is shameful and beneath the institutions which these students attend.

What's more, the perpetrators of these acts cover their faces to avoid being identified. This practice is in line with paramilitary operatives, cyber vigilantes and domestic terrorist groups. I believe that if I voice an opinion, I should own it and open myself up to criticism and other viewpoints so that I might learn.

After all that's one of the reasons why I came to college. People that commit acts of violence and wear masks are close-minded cowards and nothing more. Open political dialogue has existed in this nation for nearly 250 years. Why should it come to a screeching halt now?

Luckily Hopkins seems better than most colleges in providing a culture encouraging a diversity of opinions. My friends at UC Berkeley, Middlebury and Oberlin are not so lucky. However while the fight against conservative opinions is not as visible at Hopkins, roots are still visible here.

In my classes, "conservative" is often treated as a dirty word, by students and faculty alike. In one of my lecture classes, a group of students literally laughed at and proceeded to speak over a moderately conservative classmate trying to voice his opinion.

His outrageous belief? That the world of *The Hunger Games* was not realistically comparable to Trump's America. This student even self-identified as "not a Trump supporter," probably out of fear of being listed on social media as a bigot. I guess the rude students that laughed at him believed that next year Trump will call for tributes from the 20 states that went for Hillary.

As a campus, we should work towards a greater tolerance of opinions and viewpoints that may differ from one's own — whether conservative or liberal. Don't scoff at the sole outspoken Republican in one of your lecture classes, but rather politely listen to and challenge their ideas.

Contemptuous tweets don't win hearts and minds, no matter how witty — but discussion does. Intellectual combat is debate, not the campus violence that we've seen on the news.

James O'Donnell is a freshman International Studies and history major. He is from New York City.

Our student body has an inferiority complex

By JACQUI NEBER

For a school full of academically accomplished people, Hopkins is a school with an inferiority complex. This is a strange complex to claim and an even stranger one to prove. There are no statistics that can speak to the crippling anxieties and tendencies toward comparison that run through our campus.

Few people have spoken freely about pressure to succeed, or the pressure to succeed in the context of our environment. Everyone jokes about their insecurity, but students rarely have serious conversations about its origin.

This complex has many layers. We're constantly comparing ourselves to each other through test scores, majors, internships and job offers. We're also constantly comparing Hopkins to our peer institutions. And perhaps the weirdest facet of our problem: We justify our insecurity with hubris.

We're not as good as Harvard. But wait, everyone at Harvard graduates with a inflated GPAs. We fight an uphill battle against grade deflation. So, we must be better somehow!

We're aggressively defensive about our status as one of the hardest schools out there, and this aggression breeds insecurity on many other fronts. We can't seem to win, and our insecurity becomes a double-edged sword, one that somehow perfectly sums up this school. It's all a trap.

Maybe our insecurity stems from our original sin: coming to Hopkins. This culture or complex could be a classic example of thou-

sands of big fish struggling to stay afloat in this challenging pond. We all come from the top of our high school classes, and here we need to work even harder to make it to the top quarter of the class. We worry we will not be enough.

Maybe the inferiority complex is institutional, coming from not just the disappearance of covered grades but from the high standards Hopkins sets for its students. Maybe the University does nothing to remedy our insecurity and instead reinforces our collective ideology with every deflated GPA and newest class it admits.

Maybe it's here, but it's not unique to us.

A University of Chicago *Maroon* article describes exactly what I'm writing about now. We all know Chicago as the place where "fun goes to die," but apparently it's also the place where students worry about their relative intelligence. The author, Matt Barnum, discusses conversations students would define as being "So U of C," and the bashful way they apply that label.

Barnum thinks being self-conscious about being smart is both false and harmful. At Chicago, they fear also how smart kids are at Harvard and they think they're better than kids at Harvard because everyone at Chicago needs to work harder. Barnum finds the insecurity of his own student body "embarrassingly obvious."

There it is: insecurity stemming from what students are not

and what students are. Barnum wrote "Inferiority complex is so U of C" in 2005.

Clearly, inferiority complexes are not unique to Hopkins, and they're not even new. The University of Chicago is a foil for our own layered issues. Our collective complex, like that of Chicago, has existed for a long time, and it won't go away by itself.

It would be idealistic and ridiculous to tell you to cease the comparison on any level. It would also be ridiculous to remind students that they are smart. The point of

"Maybe our insecurity comes from our original sin: coming to Hopkins."

this is that we know we're smart, and we should be neither insecure nor arrogant about it.

At this point in our relationship with deep-seeded insecurity, we should tread lightly but ask questions. We need to not only recognize this complex problem for what it is but work to reform some of the aspects of Hopkins life that perpetuate a culture of inferiority.

It's worth mentioning that no one talks about this collective inferiority complex, but everyone I spoke to in the formation of this article immediately identified it as a pervasive issue. It's here. We feel it.

They say the first stage of healing is acceptance. There's a fine line between humbleness and insecurity, between confidence and arrogance. It exists somewhere on this campus and in our own psyches. We just need to find it.

Jacqui Neber is a senior Writing Seminars major from Northport, N.Y. She is the Opinions Editor.

Death joke culture is wrong, but it still persists

By NICOLA SUMI KIM

If you were to ask a random person to outline our generation's defining characteristics, you would probably hear a string of descriptors fitting something along the lines of "entitled," "lazy," "technologically driven," perhaps "misunderstood" or "thoroughly cheated."

Depending on whom you ask, all of these are valid adjectives. However if someone were to ask me, what would come to mind as a defining feature is our bizarre (bordering nonsensical) sense of humor — our meme culture.

Twitter, Tumblr, Buzzfeed and even our own University meme page all serve as perfect examples of this generational peculiarity, boasting post after post of jokes so niche that even students fluent in dank memes sometimes can't understand them, let alone people from other generations.

Beyond their inherent bizarreness though, what is particularly noteworthy is that most of the jokes our generation makes seem to be centered on death and suicide.

Jokes finished with lines like "I want to die," "I love to suffer" and "I'm going to kill myself" pepper meme pages across the globe. It's practically the norm. It seems then that our generation is casually suicidal — constantly toying with the idea of death, tiptoeing on that fine line between humor and nihilism.

This focus on dying is a prominent and unique theme of our generation, one that is having palpable repercussions not just on humor culture, but also on the depiction of mental illness across society.

Upon first glance, death jokes seem to be just that: jokes. If anything, some argue, jokes centered around suicide and depression can normalize mental illness; after all, the best way to destigmatize any topic is to spread awareness

and discuss the issue, and mental illness should be no different. Additionally, death jokes could serve as a casual platform for people with mental illness to express their feelings and feel normal.

Finally, introducing these topics into our everyday culture could help lessen feelings of isolation, as those suffering from depression or suicidal thoughts could realize that their feelings are not only valid, but also more commonplace than thought.

While some of these arguments do have truth to them, experts have actually spoken out against the death-joke culture. As counterintuitive as it seems, making death jokes does not necessarily destigmatize mental illness. Instead it trivializes its challenges.

Dan Reidenberg, the executive director of Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE), spoke about the issue to *The Huffington Post* in a 2016 article.

"It's actually demeaning to those with true illnesses that can't easily stop these behaviors," he said. "If we trivialize them into something else, we have done everyone a disservice."

Not only is it demeaning towards those who suffer from mental illness to joke about the topic, but these death-centered jokes can also falsely perpetuate the idea that mental illness is no longer a serious issue. After all, it's light enough to joke about. The reality is that teenage depression rates have skyrocketed in the past few decades.

According to a study reported in *Pediatrics*, a well-respected medical journal, the percentage of teenagers who have experienced a major depressive episode in the past year has increased from 8.7 percent in 2005 to 11.5 percent in 2014. There was a 37 percent increase in prevalence in only nine years.

While some of this can be attributed to extraneous factors like

better antidepressants and a more positive attitude about therapy (both of which may have led to people being more likely to report their symptoms), the trend across multiple stories reflects the idea that mental illness is becoming an increasingly prevalent issue.

Simply put, it isn't something to joke about, and it definitely isn't something to risk trivializing.

So it's obviously a problem that our humor is so centered around depression and suicide. But what's especially intriguing about the whole ordeal is that, despite at least subconsciously knowing that death jokes aren't appropriate, we all continue to make them — myself included.

We pride ourselves on how much we care about bettering our world; that's why we pursue the majors we do, and that's why we join the organizations we join. But in perpetuating this style of humor, it seems like we're turning around and stabbing ourselves in the back.

We are ostracizing a larger and larger portion of our community for the sake of our own entertainment, and we're basically aware that we're doing so. It's hard to curb a bad habit. In the days that I spent researching and writing this article, I probably joked about how much I wanted to die because of it. But this is an issue that demands more of our attention.

We as a community need to stop trivializing mental illness and start problem-solving. We need to be aware of what we say, how we say it and how it affects others. We need to be better — it's our responsibility not just as individuals or as Hopkins students, but as members of a global community, as people who care.

Nicola Sumi Kim is a freshman majoring in Global Environmental Change and Sustainability and Writing Seminars. She is from London.

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Science & Technology

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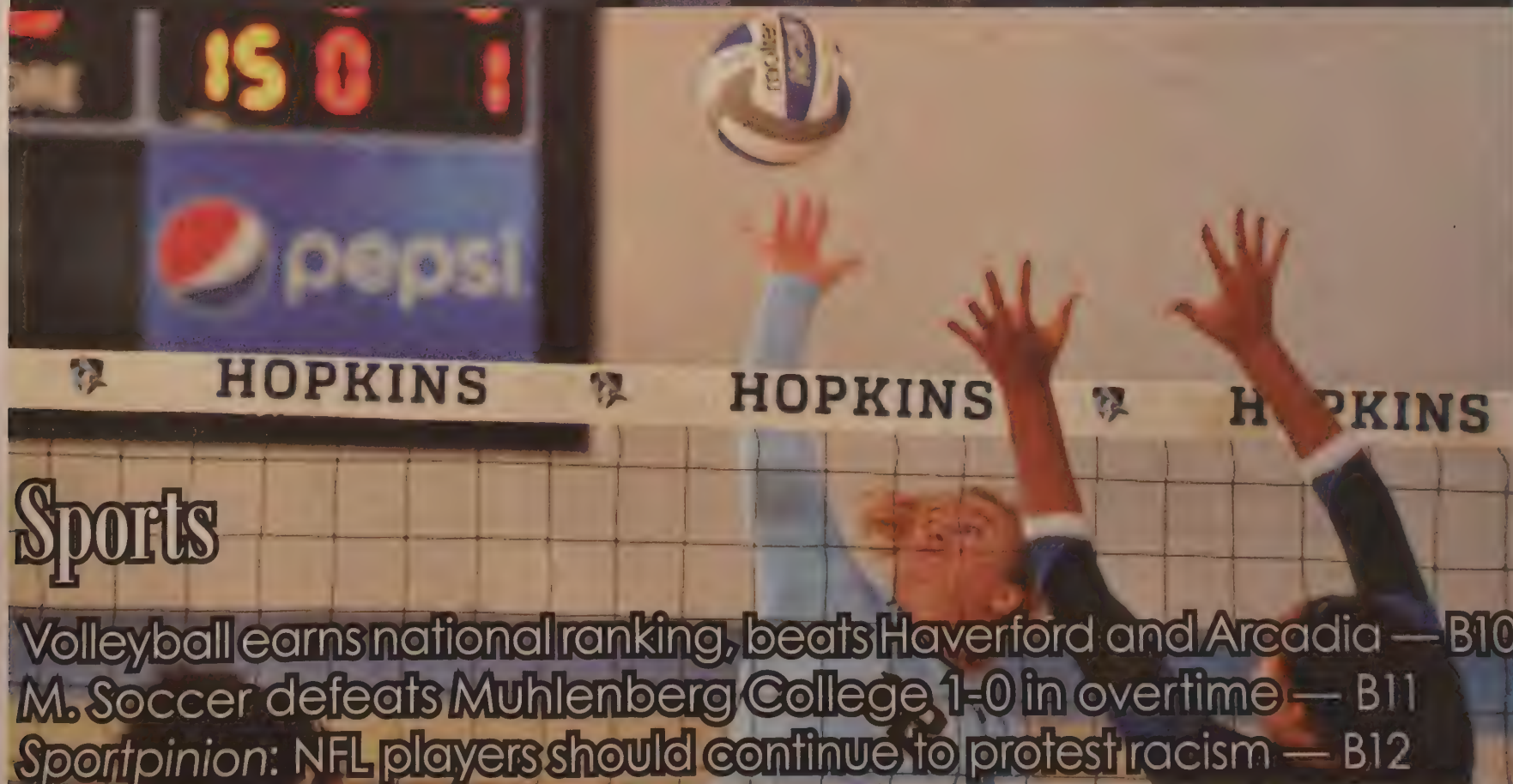


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M. Soccer defeats Muhlenberg College 1-0 in overtime — B11

Sportpinion: NFL players should continue to protest racism — B12

YOUR WEEKEND OCTOBER 5 - 8

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Thursday

Interpretations of Julius Caesar The Walters Art Museum 6:30 p.m. — 7:15 p.m.

Watch the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company's interpretations of Shakespeare's most well known plays. Listen to commentary about the Walters' ancient Roman collection from one of the associate curators. Free.

Friday

Peabody Music Series: Tyrone Page The Walters Art Museum 12 p.m. — 1 p.m.

Listen to this lunchtime concert at the Walters' Sculpture Court, performed by saxophonist Tyrone page. This event is part of a series of free music events taking place on the first Friday of every month. Free.

Two Trains Running Spotlighters Theatre 8 p.m. - 10:20 p.m.

Enjoy August Wilson's play about the people in a Pittsburgh coffee shop. While the scene is small, the people encompassed in it are larger than life. This includes a 322 year old sage, an ex con and a numbers runner. Tickets are \$18 for students.

Saturday

Shifting Views The Baltimore Museum of Art 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This exhibit features contemporary art from African artists. The pieces, which span a variety of mediums, offer complex and insightful views into politics and the lives of African peoples. Free.

Edgar Allen Poe is Dead Observance Westminster Hall and Burying Ground 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Observe the 168th anniversary of Edgar Allen Poe's death alongside other fans of the great Baltimorean's work. Located at his very grave, the observance will feature theatrical readings as well as a wreath laying ceremony. Free.

Sunday

Meditative Yoga in the Galleries The Walters Art Museum 11:30 a.m.- 12:45 p.m.

This hour-long yoga session will take place within the galleries and even include discussions about the surrounding art. Participants must bring a yoga mat or towel as none will be provided at the museum. Free.

Add The Maryland Zoo to your Hopkins bucket list

By KAREN SUN
For The News-Letter

I've walked and driven by The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore plenty of times. Each time I reminded myself I should really check it out sometime soon, especially since it's only a 10-minute drive from campus.

Who would've known I would end up visiting the zoo with my biology lab partner for a lab assignment. With over 400 students currently taking biology lab, a good number of them have already explored the zoo this past week, and many more ought to.

The assignment consisted of questions about different exhibits scattered throughout the zoo. These exhibits included African Journey, Maryland Wilderness and Penguin Encounters (which was hands-down my favorite).

The first thing I saw after entering the zoo was a fairly small gift shop located at the entrance that had a few ticket counters for visitors to purchase tickets.

I found the entrance rather plain and underwhelming, and it lowered my expectations.

I visited the zoo a little after it opened, 11 a.m. on a Saturday morning, and was surprised to see there was already a line forming to ride the train to the main exhibits.

Onboard the tram the

majority of people were families with young children and babies. However, I could spot a few Hopkins students carrying pen and paper.

The first exhibit my lab partner and I saw was Penguin Encounters, located near the entrance. I absolutely loved it. But keep in mind, I consider myself an animal-lover, and I especially adore cute and small creatures.

We spent a good 15 minutes just watching the adorable penguins swim, eat and walk around in the open viewing space. There is also an underwater viewing area where we saw groups of penguin swim around the channel.

Something I liked about the Penguin Coast is that there are no bad viewing spots. No matter where you stand in the exhibit, you will definitely get to see a penguin, a pelican or a cormorant wandering around.

Another major highlight of the zoo is the very comprehensive African Journey which will be interesting for any animal-lover.



COURTESY OF KAREN SUN

The Maryland Zoo features a variety of animals both for entertainment and conservation.

From ferocious cats, like leopards and lions, to huge birds like ostriches, this exhibit has it all.

For me, a large concern today is the preservation of biodiversity. With poachers, deforestation and countless other problems on the rise, over hundreds of species go extinct each year.

One of my favorite aspects of the zoo is that it is a major proponent of the conservation of animals.

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore actually holds the largest breeding colony of the Panamanian golden frog, a species that has nearly gone extinct in North America.

The zoo is involved in a number of consortia aimed at preventing different species, like polar bears and African penguins, from going extinct.

Many of the African penguins found in the zoo were actually bred in the zoo itself!

With such a huge range of species, the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is fit for anyone who likes animals, whether cute and fuzzy or large and fierce.

To get to the zoo you can either walk or take a car. A walk will definitely take longer, approximately 50 minutes, but you will also get to check out the pleasant Druid Hill Park on the way. A car ride will only take 10 minutes, and the Uber estimate is under \$8.

I would definitely recommend visiting the zoo at least once during your time at Hopkins. For less than \$20 you will be able to see animals from all around the world in our very own city.

My favorite places to people watch in Baltimore

By RENEE SCAVONE
Your Weekend Editor

Despite the fact that temperatures are once again approaching the mid-80s, fall has come to Baltimore, date-wise. That means your Instagram feed will soon be totally flooded with photos of acquaintances enjoying the weather in warm color palettes.

If you want to experience the FOMO from seeing that girl from your calculus class playing with a puppy in a pile of crunchy leaves first hand, Baltimore provides plenty of spots for people watching in the fall.

First and foremost, the hill in Federal Hill. While the neighborhood as a whole may be taken over by yuppies and people who can afford waterfront condos, the hill remains largely unchanged: a public space for couples to picnic, for pet owners to walk and for children to tumble, much to the dismay of their parents and, or nannies.

The viewpoint is also one of the best in the city; You can stare out at the water and the bustling streets of the Inner Harbor.

Federal Hill is the perfect place to lay on the grass and watch the leaves change while also spying on people doing yoga (and 100 percent not stealing tips from their personal yogis — that's illegal and could not technically be

endorsed by this column).

Owing to the aforementioned population of affluent twenty-something-year-olds, Federal Hill is also a great place to eavesdrop.

Will the girl on the bench next to you get her boyfriend to commit to visiting her parents for Thanksgiving? Unclear, but you're sure to be totally invested in their relationship by the end of her very private phone call.

On a less scandalous note, the trees and the abundance of excited children make Federal Hill a wonderful place to spend a fall afternoon (and to snag the perfect panorama pic).

If you're looking for somewhere to people watch that's a little more gritty, I suggest literally any bench in Fell's Point. While I believe that Fell's is the best people watching spot in Baltimore at any time of the year, there's something about the cobblestone streets that make it particularly well-suited for autumn.

Because I'm the most extra person in the world, I prefer going in the morning. Grab a coffee and a donut from Diablo Donuts and spend a few hours wandering those picturesque streets watching the city wake up.

Alternatively go there in the evening for some truly wild people watching. The sheer number of establishments making full use of their liquor license in the



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Federal Hill is just one of many great places to people watch in Baltimore.

main square alone means that there's always something (or rather, someone) to gawk at.

Looking for something a little more wholesome? Fell's Point's annual Fun Festival is this weekend. Similar to Federal Hill, this provides a great chance to watch families interact and for you to truly embrace the crippling loneliness of not having your parents visit you for Parents' Weekend.

Or, you know, watch someone's dad scold them for spilling oysters outside the Thames Street Oyster House and be ever so grateful that you told your parents the Weekend was for freshmen only.

Perhaps you want something seasonally spooky. Baltimore is one of the most haunted cities in America, and that comes into full force during October.

As one of multiple U.S. cities that claims ties to Edgar Allen Poe, Baltimore can provide you with tons

of opportunities to people watch folks that you might only otherwise see at very genre-specific English literature conferences.

In particular, I suggest checking out the crowd celebrating the 168th anniversary of Poe's death this Saturday. There will be wreath laying, performances and readings, and surely at least a few period-accurate cosplays.

Not only do you get to people watch, you may actually learn something — or at the very least have what I am sure will be a wildly surreal experience.

Wherever you go, Baltimore is a wonderful place to be in the fall. People watching can be a calming activity, and I find that it also makes me feel more like an actual resident of this city.

Whether it's for 30 minutes or for a whole day, I encourage you to grab a Pumpkin Spice Latte, choose a sturdy bench and watch the world go by.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Rare animals teetering on brink of extinction



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Five species of antelopes are declining in numbers and at risk for extinction.

By CINDY JIANG
For *The News-Letter*

In this time of rapid and drastic climate and environmental change, many species are finding themselves on the endangered species list. Although the media has brought a part of the problem to light, it has primarily focused on well-known animals whose physical appearances are capable of invoking some sort of sympathy in the viewer.

By now most people are aware that the giant panda, polar bear and rhino are on the brink of extinction. However the limited amount of coverage on the topic obscures the fact that the endangered species list is much more extensive than just these three animals.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species contains 87,967 species of living organisms, 25,062 of which are facing the pos-

sibility of extinction. Craig Hilton-Taylor, the head of the Red List Unit at IUCN, explained how they evaluated the species.

"We have a set of quantitative criteria that we try to rank species under, and if a species moves into one of the threatened categories — vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered — then we know that a species either has a high, very high or an extremely high risk of going extinct in the wild," Hilton-Taylor said, according to a press release.

For example, a recent update to the list revealed that the Christmas Island pipistrelle bat is now extinct.

According to Inger Andersen, who is the IUCN's director general, human activities are pushing species to extinction more quickly than conversationalists can assess the declines.

"Even those species that we thought were abundant and safe — such as antelopes in Africa or ash trees in the

U.S. — now face an imminent threat of extinction," Anderson said, according to *ScienceDaily*. "And while conservation action does work, conserving the forests, savannas and other biomes that we depend on for our survival and development is simply not a high-enough funding priority."

The IUCN Red List encompasses more than just animals. In fact, of six widespread ash tree species in North America, five are classified as critically endangered, primarily because of the emerald ash borer beetle (*Agilus planipennis*), whose movement has been facilitated by global warming.

Ash trees play a vital role in forests, serving as habitat and food for a number of animals including birds, squirrels, insects, butterflies and moths. The white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) in particular, is extremely important in manufacturing wooden sports equipment.

Murphy Westwood, director of the Global Tree Conservation Program at The Morton Arboretum, explained that ash trees are essential to plant communities in the U.S. and that they have been a popular horticultural species.

"Their decline, which is likely to affect over 80 percent of the trees, will dramatically change the composition of both wild and urban forests," said Westwood, according to *ScienceDaily*.

He went on to describe the effects of losing ash trees.

"Due to the great ecological and economic value of ash trees, and because removing dead ash trees is extremely costly, much research is currently underway across sectors to halt their devastating decline,"

Westwood said in a press release. "This brings hope for the survival of the species."

Five species of African antelopes also face population decline because of poaching, habitat degradation and competition with domestic livestock. The decline of this species is a prime example of what happens when nature is forced to race against humans for resources.

David Mallon, co-chair of the Species Survival Commission's Antelope Specialist Group, claims that antelopes are declining because of human population growth. As people clear land for agriculture and expand their settlements, less land remains habitable for antelopes.

"To reverse this dangerous trend, conserving biodiversity must be given much higher priority as part of efforts to achieve sustainable national economic development. Existing laws protecting wildlife must also be much more effectively enforced," Mallon said, according to *ScienceDaily*.

Even though the current outlook is bleak, there is still hope for endangered species. The Rodrigues flying fox (*Pteropus rodricensis*) species has seen an increase in its numbers since the increase habitat protection and reforestation programs. Additionally, there was greater general awareness and legal protections for this species.

As a result of all these efforts, the species has moved from the critically endangered to the endangered category. Although endangered species have the ability to bounce back from the edge of extinction, it will take a combined global effort to do so.

More teens are getting vaccinated for HPV

By TERESA NG
For *The News-Letter*

There's a vaccine that could eradicate cervical cancer, but it's heavily underused in the U.S. Thankfully new numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that a rising number of U.S. teenagers are receiving one or more shots of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, totaling up to 60 percent in 2016. Experts say the target rate is 80 percent.

HPV is transmitted through sexual contact, and the most dangerous strains are responsible for nearly all cases of cervical cancer and 95 percent of anal cancers, according to the National Cancer Institute. HPV is also strongly linked to oral, vaginal, vulvar and penile cancers.

The risk of infection is high — CDC estimates show that 90 percent of men and 80 percent of women who are sexually active will eventually get HPV.

William Schaffer, professor of preventative medicine at Vanderbilt University spoke in a press release about the high hopes he had for the vaccine.

"I thought the advent of our first explicitly anti-cancer vaccine and the fact that it was so incredibly successful and safe, would be immediately embraced with pizzazz and rose petals," Schaffner said.

Unfortunately, this was not the case. HPV's association with sex has created parental resistance to having their children vaccinated. The mentality is that teenagers shouldn't be sexually active in the first place and thus they don't need the vaccination.

Additionally, there are those who fear that all vaccines are dangerous, even though this one has been proven to be safe. Merck, the company that produced the first HPV vaccine Gardasil, had previously sold an arthritis drug that

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PUBLIC DOMAIN
The HPV vaccine has been shown to prevent multiple types of cancer.

E-cigarettes increase risk of cardiac arrest

By RACHEL HUANG
For *The News-Letter*

Electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, are thought to be a healthier alternative to the traditional tobacco cigarettes, but recent evidence shows otherwise.

In a study published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*, puffing an e-cigarette that delivers nicotine not only triggers addiction but can also lead to an increased risk in cardiac arrest and possibly cardiac death.

Nicotine is a toxic chemical found in tobacco that induces the sense of pleasure and excitement once it enters the body. Ten seconds is all it takes for the nicotine to reach the brain and instruct it to release adrenaline.

Adrenaline is an important hormone that controls the heart rate and blood pressure in states of strong emotion.

When adrenaline is released, the addictive "buzz" is created, and this addictive "buzz" is what

causes people to light up cigarette after cigarette.

On a similar note, adrenaline, when released, also causes the heart to beat faster in order to provide more energy.

Nicotine stimulates the sympathetic nervous system — also known as the fight-or-flight response system — and in

doing so, blood pressure rises and heart rate increases.

Recurring exposure to nicotine leads to a prolonged state of an increased heart rate that, in the long run, can lead to an abnormal heart rate variability (HRV), which is the time interval between heart beats.

This is detrimental because stress put on the heart increases the risk of experiencing a heart attack or a stroke.

To test this theory, Holly Middlekauff and her research team at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles conducted an experiment

SEE CIGARETTE, PAGE B5

Praising children for being smart increases cheating

By RAYYAN JOKHAI
Staff Writer

A pair of studies from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto, along with researchers in China and the U.S. have found that children who are told that they are smart or that they are high-achieving academic students are more likely to cheat.

Professor Kang Lee from the OISE's Institute of Child Study (ICS) and his colleagues suggest that although praise is a reward

used almost universally by parents and educators, it can certainly have detrimental effects.

"Giving children [the] wrong kind of praise makes them dishonest," Lee said, according to *ScienceDaily*.

In the initial study titled "Praising Young Children for Being Smart Promotes Cheating," which was published in *Psychological Science*, two phrases were used to reward preschoolers who successfully completed a task.

The results show that children who were praised

as being "smart" were significantly more likely to cheat than those who were praised for doing "great" at the task.

In a second study titled "Telling young children they have a reputation for being smart promotes cheating," published in *Developmental Science*, researchers showed that preschoolers who were told that they were smart cheated at higher rates in the future.

In the initial study researchers had three-year-olds and five-year-olds participate in a guessing game.

Upon winning in the game, the children were praised in either one of two ways.

One group was told, "You are so smart," while the other was told, "You did very well this time." The difference here is in

what was being praised.

In the first group the children themselves were rewarded for being smart. However in the second, the children's performance was more directly praised. After the researchers praised the children, they left the room, instructing the children to promise that they would not cheat. While the researcher was out of the room, a hidden camera was able to record what the children did.

After looking at the recordings, the researchers found that despite the difference between the phrases of approval, the children in both age groups who were told that they are smart were more likely to cheat than those who were told that their behavior was good.

Similar results were found in the second study in which students who were directly told that they were smart. This effectively increased their likelihood of acting dishonestly in the future.

Lee explained the rationale behind the dishonesty.

"Praise is more complex than it seems. Praising a child's ability implies that the specific behavior that is

SEE CHEATING, PAGE B5



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Studies have shown that telling children they are smart results in an increased inclination to cheat.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Newly found DNA unveils migration patterns

By AVERY GULINO
For The News-Letter

When we think about the beginnings of humanity, we often imagine a cave-man with a club running in circles looking for food. We are taught that humanity slowly evolved in northeastern Africa, that homo sapiens slowly spread through the continent and then out of Africa to Europe, Asia and the Americas.

This migration is portrayed as one large sweep through the world, but what actually occurred is not quite that simple.

The migration of humans over the past tens of thousands of years is actually quite a complex story. If you traced it out on a map it would simply look like a toddler's scribbles. Humans have gone back and forth between places as long as they have existed, and as archaeologists find more evidence of ancient humans, we find more paths they have taken.

More extensive research has been done on the early origins of European settlements than those of Africa. This is due partially to the climate differences in Europe and Africa, which has been one of the major obstacles in revealing Africa's genetic history. Skeletons are best preserved in colder climates, preferably below freezing.

In Africa, locations that meet this criteria are scarce, making well preserved remains much more difficult to locate.

But with new technologies, archaeologists are finally gathering real evidence of how humans developed in ancient Africa.

"Human genetic history was complex, and ancient DNA studies from Africa are needed to understand the history there, and are eagerly awaited," Chris Tyler-Smith, a geneticist from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, wrote in an email to the *Smithsonian Magazine*. "[T]his is the first substantial study of ancient African DNA."

A new study of ancient African DNA was recently conducted by an international team of researchers. The team found 16 skeletons in caves on the high plateaus of Malawi and Tanzania that date back as far as 8,100 years.

These fossil remains were analyzed and had genetic material extracted from them, which David Reich, a geneticist at Harvard Medical School and senior author of the study, analyzed with

his team.

They found that the genes in the ancient remains were not related to the genomes of present day people native to Malawi. This suggests that migration there was far more dramatic than archaeologists originally thought.

At that time hunter-gatherer populations still dominated, so small groups of people moved around very frequently and left trails of tools and remains in their wake.

It is also known that the settlement of populations and growth of agriculture displaced many of the hunter-gatherer populations, causing mass migrations.

But a complete absence of any common genes between the ancient remains and current day people in Malawi shows massive migration flows — even those related to the ancient hunter-gatherers in the area had moved so far away that none of their genes remain in the people native to the area today.

It has also been long believed that many of the migrations of early humans simply left Africa and spread across the globe, without ever returning. But in their analysis of the Tanzanian skeletons, researchers found the remains of a girl from 3,100 years ago. Her DNA was distinctly different from the older African remains and around a third of her genes were similar to those of ancient Near Eastern farmers.

There are two previous instances of finding this ancient Near Eastern DNA in Africa. One was the 1,200 year-old remains found in South Africa and the other was found in Ethiopia (dating back 4,500 years ago). These findings helped provide a starting and ending point for this movement of Near Eastern farmers.

This new find puts a time-stamp on when this particular migration southward from Ethiopia to southern Africa occurred.

We are now beginning to gather more clues into what was a very complex web of migrations across Africa and Eurasia in the ancient world. Researchers are trying to look for colder, dryer areas of Africa where remains might be as well preserved as they are in Europe, in the hopes of finding more clues.

These scientists hope to discover not only about migration patterns but also more information on the way ancient Africans lived.

Slowing brain cell growth reduces risk of seizures

By ISAAC CHEN
Staff Writer

According to the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a major contributor to disabilities and deaths in the U.S. Statistics indicate that 153 people die every day from injuries involving TBI.

TBI is a type of brain injury that occurs when trauma causes damage to the brain. An individual with mild TBI may experience unconsciousness for a few seconds, whereas an individual with severe TBI may have headaches that don't go away, or in extreme cases, it can cause a loss of coordination and slurred speech.

From the perspective of the insurance industry and numerous health care providers, TBI is classified as a medical event. This means that once a patient with TBI receives treatment and goes through a period of rehabilitation, the patient is treated as if lasting effects on the central nervous system do not exist, with no further supervision or follow-up.

"Thus, a broken brain is the equivalent of a broken bone," Brent Masel and Douglas DeWitt wrote in their article published in the *Journal of Neurotrauma*.

Those who survive a TBI may face effects that last a couple of days or they could suffer symptoms for the rest of their lives. Masel and Dewitt encourage the

classification of TBI as a chronic disease.

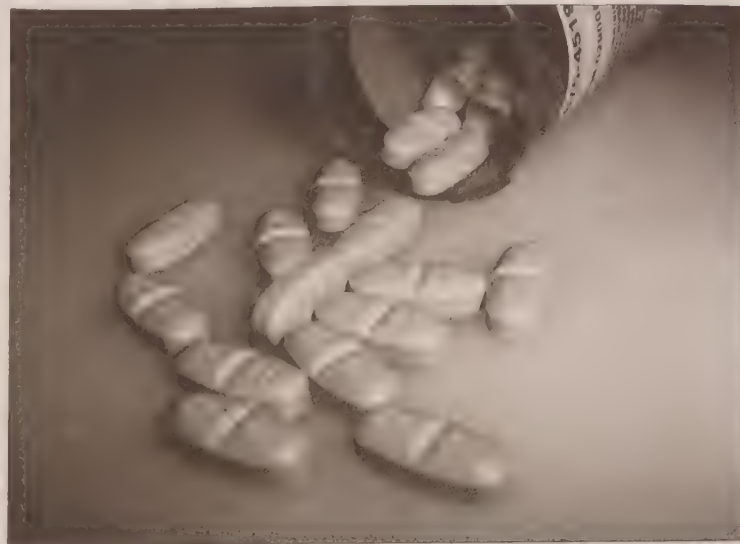
"[TBI is] the beginning of an ongoing, perhaps lifelong process, that impacts multiple organ systems and may be disease causative and accelerative," they wrote.

In addition, TBI is associated with several other disorders such as epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease and sexual dysfunction, as well as others.

After an individual suffers from a brain injury, the hippocampus dentate gyrus is thought to increase neurogenesis, which is the production of new neurons from stem cells and progenitor cells, as a method of recovery.

However, in a recent study published in *Stem Cells Report*, Vijayalakshmi Santhakumar, from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and her colleagues demonstrated that early post-injury increases in neurogenesis can later result in declined neurogenic capacity.

In fact this rapid increase in neurogenesis causes abnormal excitability in the brain, allowing



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Slowing cell growth can replace traditional drug related treatments for many brain disorders.

the brain to become more susceptible to seizures.

"There is an initial increase in birth of new neurons after a brain injury but within weeks, there is a dramatic decrease in the normal rate at which neurons are born, depleting brain cells that under normal circumstances should be there to replace damaged cells and repair the brain's network," Santhakumar said, according to *Rutgers Today*. "The excess new neurons lead to epileptic seizures and could contribute to cognitive decline."

If the abnormal excitability can be suppressed, the research team hypothesized that seizure susceptibility would decrease.

"That's why we believe that limiting this process might be beneficial

to stopping seizures after brain injury," Santhakumar said.

In the experiment the research team used mice to observe whether an increase in neurogenesis causes a decline in the brain's capacity to repair damaged cells. They used SU1498, an inhibitor of vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2 (VEGFR2).

The researchers' findings suggest that brain injuries result in an exhaustion of neurogenic capacity, similar to aging. However, brain injuries accelerate this exhaustion at a much faster rate.

"It is normal for the birth of new neurons to decline as we age," Santhakumar said. "But what we found in our study was that after a head injury the decline seems to be more rapid."

Wrap up: the latest in technology...

By WILLIAM XIE
Staff Writer
& JONATHAN PATTERSON
For The News-Letter

Microsoft Excel gets an update

Microsoft plans on implementing machine learning tools to improve user experience. The new Excel will be capable of reading data and providing what Microsoft calls "insights," which are data visualization and analysis tools. New data types will be added which will allow users to "tag" additional information and automatically search for related data. JavaScript is also going to be supported, allowing complex scripts to be written and used with any third-party Application Programming Interface (API).

The upgrade will be released early next year. Additionally, a subscription-free version of Microsoft Office will be released in the second half of 2018.

Microsoft, Facebook and Telxius complete subsea cable

Microsoft, Facebook and a global telecommunications infrastructure company Telxius have completed the highest capacity subsea cable. Spanning across the Atlantic, the 4,000 mile long cable connects Virginia and Spain. The intercontinental cable named Marea, Spanish for "tide," ensures smoother communications across the Atlantic. It has a transfer rate of up to 160 terabits per second. In the modern era of mass data and communication handling, there is no question that the demand for data flow will increase.

"Everyone expects that whenever they turn on their computer or their tablet or their phone, they're going to work. That's what this cable is going to help enable," Frank Rey, director of global network strategy for Microsoft's Cloud Infrastructure and Operations division, said in a press release.

Tesla sends batteries to Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico was recently devastated by a series of storms. Following Hurricane Maria power was knocked out for large parts of the island.

Tesla has already sent and plans to continue sending hundreds of Powerwall battery systems — rechargeable home batteries designed to provide backup power — in an effort to provide power to the people of Puerto Rico. Along with the battery systems, Tesla employees were organized to help install these systems.

The island, home to 3.4 million people, utilized a tiny fraction of renewables as an energy source prior to the storm. Inevitably Puerto Rico's damaged power grid will have to be rebuilt, which may spark a push to implement more renewable energy.

Uber's London operations are halted

The future of Uber's operations in London may be in serious jeopardy, at least for the foreseeable future. On Friday, Sept. 22, it was announced that the ride-sharing company was not going to be granted a new operating licence after their current one expired on Sept. 30.

A statement released by Transport for London (TfL) via Twitter argued that the app "is not fit and proper to hold a private hire operator licence." TfL also claimed that the company is plagued by "a lack of corporate responsibility in relation to a number of issues which have potential public safety and security implications."

As evidence of Uber's failings, TfL cites recent incidents involving how the company reports criminal offences, obtains medical certificates and gains access to Enhanced Disclosure Barring Service checks. Uber is allowed 21 days to begin the appeal process, during which, their 40,000 London employees are allowed to continue driving.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Human remains in Malawi show no DNA link to modern day inhabitants.

A call to create a federal Department of Science



Jonathan Patterson
Science in Society

The role of science in the federal government's infrastructure needs to change. In recent years, issues about scientific topics like climate change, stem cell research, driverless cars and cybersecurity have all spilled over into the political arena. Bill Nye has become a political activist and, "I'm not a scientist," has become one of the official talking points of the Republican Party.

Science and technology have never been a more prominent facet of government than they are now, and yet scientists have never been more disregarded. Scientific fact is not immune to the distortion of reality popularized by a Trump campaign and administration that would rather fund a border wall destined for failure than invest in renewable energy.

Meanwhile the structure of the federal government's science agencies has been in place for decades and, although tweaks have been made, the system has failed to truly adjust and modernize. Funding science has been seen as a wasteful endeavor by many on Capitol Hill. Furthermore, the way that the U.S. government organizes and handles its scientific resources serves only to fuel this perpetual stigma.

Currently, science is highly fragmented at the federal level. A slew of agencies scattered across multiple departments combine to collectively cover the science-related tasks of the federal government.

We all know about the famous ones like NASA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but those two are only the tip of the iceberg. Science is much more prevalent at the federal level than anyone would expect.

We have a collection of agencies that are centered around science and technology. The alphabet soup ranges from DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) to NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) to the NSF (National Science Foundation).

It doesn't even stop there. Many departments

within the federal bureaucracy also have divisions dedicated to science. The Department of Agriculture runs the Agricultural Research Service, the State Department has an Office of the Science and Technology Adviser.

This pasted-together assembly of offices, institutes and agencies that combine to compose the federal scientific community has a glaring problem: It ignores the fact that science is a collaborative process. The discontinuity of science in the federal government breeds an inefficient environment that almost ensures that these agencies won't live up to their full potential or reclaim former glory.

Now bureaucratic infrastructure is never simple, but one solution to the shortcomings of the current federal science agencies would be to create a centralized U.S. Department of Science and Technology.

By simply reorganizing the current federal science agencies under one roof, a Department of Science and Technology could be created with minimal additional cost. Such a department would be a welcome addition to the federal government.

Not only would it seal the fissure between federal science agencies and allow them to work more closely together, it would also provide science with a face in Washington, D.C. Concentrating the federal government's existing resources in the field would allow for them to be used in conjunction with one another, rather than in disconnect.

A potential Secretary of Science and Technology would be able to advise the President, Congress and cabinet members on matters relating to science, in addition to managing the department, since managing the department is a role that clearly needs to be filled by someone.

The creation of a Department of Science and Technology would fill the gap within the current federal science structure, providing the federal scientific community with the leadership and increased legitimacy it currently lacks in D.C.

Given the current political environment of alternative facts, the U.S. government needs a central, factual authority on science now more than ever. Maybe then we can stop blaming China for the global warming hoax, and Bill Nye won't have to save the world.

Telling kids they are smart leads them to cheat



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This study found that praising kids for being smart causes them to feel pressured in school.

CHEATING, FROM B3

commented on stems from stable traits related to one's ability, such as smartness," he said. "This is different than other forms of praise, such as praising specific behaviors or praising effort."

Co-author of the pub-

lication Gail Heyman, a professor at the University of California, San Diego explained in a press release elaborated on the implications of their findings.

"Our findings show that the negative effects of ability praise extend be-

yond this to promoting dishonesty, and that this occurs in children as young as three years of age," she said.

Another co-author, Professor Li Zhao of Hangzhou Normal

University said that both praising children for being smart increases pressure on them to continue being smart.

This pressure is related to the burden of having to perform well in order to live up to the expectations of others by any means nec-

essary. This, then leads to cheating.

In contrast, she says, praising the behavior does not subconsciously make the child think that he or she is expected to continue producing at such a high-achieving level.

On a grander scheme, Lee suggests that the study could improve the way in which adults praise their children so as not to promote cheating or other dishonest behaviors.

"We want to encourage children, we want them to feel good about themselves," Lee said. "But these studies show we must learn to give children the right kinds of praise, such as praising specific behavior. Only in this way will praise have the intended positive outcomes."

Sleep deprivation may be an effective anti-depressant

By ANNA CHEN

For The News-Letter

For most college students, sleep deprivation is a frustratingly familiar enemy. Medical professionals recommend seven to nine hours of sleep per night; however, on average, one in three adults fails to meet these standards.

Sleep deprivation can lead to drowsy driving and occupational errors that are responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths and injuries each year in the U.S. alone. As such it is seen as a significant public health problem.

Long-term sleep deprivation is also linked to higher risks of a multitude of diseases and disorders, such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and stroke.

So sleep deprivation is undoubtedly bad, right? It turns out there is more to it than first meets the eye. In fact a study back in 1990 observed that sleep deprivation reduced symptoms of depression in some depressed patients.

After nearly 30 years since this first discovery, a study at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania sought to better understand and quantify this surprising finding.

In the study they aimed to answer the question of how effective sleep deprivation treatments are and which kinds of populations should use them.

The research team, led by research psychologist Elaine Boland, reviewed more than 2000 studies. They narrowed down the final group to 66 studies that were published over a period of 36 years. By extracting data from this group, they concluded how the anti-depression effects from sleep deprivation are affected by several factors.

These include the type and timing of sleep deprivation (whether the subjects had no sleep at all or had early or late partial sleep deprivation), the sample from a clinical perspective (whether the patients have depressive episodes, manic episodes or both), medication status (whether or not patients are

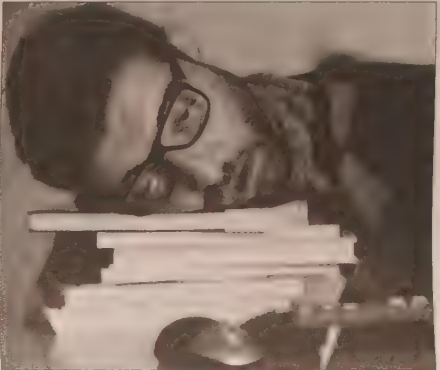
on antidepressant medication already), age and gender.

The results show that sleep deprivation is effective for a multitude of different populations with different backgrounds and conditions.

They found almost an equal response rate to the sleep deprivation treatment regardless of how the treatment was administered, the type of depression the patient was experiencing, and other variations in the experiment and the subject.

Partial sleep deprivation, which consisted of sleeping for three to four hours followed by being awake for 20 to 21 hours, was as effective as complete sleep deprivation, which consisted of being deprived of sleep for 36 hours straight.

Roughly half of all the pa-



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Reduction in depression occurred with sleep deprivation.

tients with depression who received this treatment experienced a rapid reduction of symptoms of depression.

The authors of this study emphasize that it's important to continue research in this area to find out exactly how sleep deprivation causes quick and profound reduction of depression intensity, in order to better understand the effect of sleep deprivation on mental health.

It would also be helpful to discover a way to determine which patients are most likely to respond positively to sleep deprivation treatment.

Number of teens receiving HPV vaccine on the rise

VACCINE, FROM B3

caused heart attacks. HPV vaccines have been plagued with sensational news stories linking them to deaths, even though no death has been proven.

Rural-urban and gender disparities also exist. According to the MIT Technology Review, vaccination rates are very low in the South, the Midwest and in the Appalachian states.

This may be because some health care services are less accessible outside major cities and because households in rural areas may be more socially conservative.

Rates of vaccination are much lower for boys than for girls, likely due to a widespread misconception that HPV causes only cervical cancer. Men, in fact, are vulnerable to oral and anal cancers from HPV.

Another impediment is that the CDC guidelines for the vaccine required three shots six months apart. Only 43 percent of vaccination recipients return after the first shot. New 2016 guidelines recommending two doses for those under 15 could improve completion rates.

The challenges in encouraging widespread HPV vaccination are many and varied. The way this particular

problem is solved will likely contain lessons for vaccines developed in the future.

For instance a vaccine for HIV will likely encounter similar social stigmas. The costs of vaccination will also remain a barrier for low-income households and communities. Vaccines are more effective when more individuals are vaccinated so it is important for all to get their necessary shots.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Bill Nye, an American science personality has become a political activist.

Nicotine in E-cigarettes leads to abnormal heart rate

CIGARETTE, FROM B3

on 33 healthy non-vapers and non-smokers.

These participants came into the lab on three different days and were asked to puff an e-cigarette with nicotine on one day, a nicotine-free e-cigarette on another and an empty e-cigarette on the last day.

Each trial consisted of 60 puffs in 30 minutes with an observation period of four weeks between each trial.

Results indicated that

there was a 10 percent increase in heart rate in the participants who puffed on a nicotine-delivering e-cigarette.

The HRV of a person who uses an e-cigarette closely resembled the HRV pattern found in someone who has experienced cardiac arrest.

"Only after using the e-cigarette with nicotine did we see this [abnormal heart rate variability] pattern associated with high adrenaline

levels in the heart," Middlekauff said, according to ScienceDaily. "There's now evidence that e-cigarettes could pose a health risk to people who have never smoked tobacco because of the nicotine they contain."

Middlekauff also believes smoking e-cigarettes should be assessed based on user. Despite its adverse effects on the heart, the e-cigarette is better than smoking tobacco cigarettes because it contains fewer carcinogens.

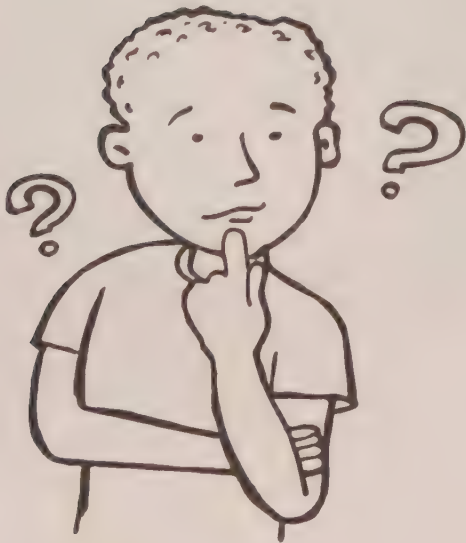
However this applies to people who smoke regularly. For non-smokers it's a different story.

"The way I think about it is that if you currently smoke tobacco cigarettes, switching to e-cigs may be a better choice, at least from the data we have," Middlekauff said in a press release. "But, if you don't smoke at all, I would strongly advise that you not start using e-cigarettes, because they are not harmless."

CARTOONS, ETC.

Sudoku: 10/05/2017

By: GISELLE RUIZ



					5	7		
	8		1				9	
	3		7					1
		9	4	5		8		2
8						4		6
4		5			8			
	5						8	
	2	8		6		9		
	9				4	5		

10/05/2017 Crossword

By: ROLLIN HU

1.	5.	6.	7.	
2.				
3.				
4.				

Across

- 1. 2017 Commencement Speaker
- 2. The miracle of ____
- 3. _____ Chapel Hill
- 4. Viagra treatment, abbrev.

Down

- 1. Cerulean, Aqua, Prussian, Teal, Royal
- 5. Orange outside
- 6. Fighting org.
- 7. Nebraskan initial

Answers available online at <http://www.jhunewsletter.com/category/cartoons/>



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Tom Cruise returns to form with *American Made*



GAGE SKIDMORE/CC BY-SA 2.0

Tom Cruise balances his talent for comedy and action in Doug Liman's new crime thriller *American Made*.

By **LUIS CURIEL**
For *The News-Letter*

Regardless of one's thoughts on Tom Cruise's personal life and religious beliefs, there is no denying that he is, even at the ripe old age of 55, one of the biggest movie stars on the planet.

He continues filming action movies and performing his own stunts while much younger actors are using stunt doubles.

Yes, one can say that this is partly because of who Tom Cruise is as a person, but the man should still be given credit. Ever since his breakout performance as the lead in the 1983 cult classic *Risky Business*, he's been the star of an array of genre defining films.

From *Rain Man* to *A Few Good Men* to *Jerry Maguire*, Cruise has shown his range and his ability to be the most charismatic actor in a scene, even when one is supposed to hate him.

Apart from these dramas, Cruise's filmography is also responsible for some of the most riveting action movies: *Top Gun*, *Collateral* (if you haven't seen this, you must rectify this mistake) and the *Mission: Impossible* franchise (the 6th one is coming out next year).

He's been able to leave his mark on each of these films and almost all have seen positive critical acclaim. Hence one can assume that anything featuring Cruise is bound to

be, at the very least, a fun, popcorn-filled time.

Pair Cruise with director Doug Liman and there is somewhat of a match made in heaven. Liman is responsible for not only the fantastic *Bourne Identity* series, but also the spy-rom-com-known-to-have-ended-a-marriage *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*.

Liman's filmography can best be described as a sinusoid reaching some high-highs and some low-lows — notably *Jumper*.

Two of the director's most recent films are a good representation of this trend. *Edge of Tomorrow* (2014), starring the aforementioned Cruise and Emily Blunt, was a critical success while 2017's *The Wall*, starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson and "airhorns" John Cena ("The Time Is Now" plays), received mixed reviews and had an underwhelming box office performance.

That being said, an issue seems to be who the leads are in Liman's films and how that drives audiences. Liman movies with less big-name stars have received less acclaim and less money at the box office.

It was safe to say that with Tom Cruise as the star of *American Made*, there was at least going to be box office success.

American Made follows the life of pilot Barry Seal (Cruise), a man who is good at his job and wants to get some excitement out of it. Enter the CIA: "Scha-

fer," played by Domhnall Gleeson, catches Seal smuggling cigars and, seeing his potential, signs him up to be a courier between the CIA and General Noriega in Panama. As the job continues Seal becomes involved with the Medellin Cartel while trying to avoid the DEA.

The cast is rounded out by Sarah Wright, who plays Seal's wife Lucy, and by Alejandro Edda and Mauricio Mejia, as Jorge Ochoa and Pablo Escobar, respectively.

If the plot sounds familiar to you, then it's because parts of it have been covered in the Netflix series *Narcos*, albeit with a little less detail. Where *Narcos* primarily focuses on bringing down the Medellin Cartel, *American Made* is about Barry and how his newfound career as a drug smuggler affects his family and his lifestyle.

There are scenes where you see Barry's lifestyle prior to his new job and how his new wealth positively affects the town. So when you see Barry's life begin to fall apart you feel bad for the guy.

Sure he wasn't doing anything legal per se, but you still feel like he deserved this sort of success.

Of course, we wouldn't feel this way if not for the acting ability that Tom Cruise remembered he has. For the first time since *Tropic Thunder*, Cruise is outside of his "I'm a super spy who can kick ass"

bubble, and it's great to see him flash those talents once again.

He nails the Louisiana accent and his natural charisma blends in with his ability to play the dumb, oblivious soldier. He even flashes that old smile we are all a little too familiar with.

Not to be outdone is Domhnall Gleeson (*Ex Machina*, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*), hamming it up and playing the CIA agent Schafer, who sees Barry as a tool that he can use to benefit his own ambitions in the agency.

Schafer doesn't care about Barry, which is pretty obvious to the audience; Barry is the only one that fails to see that until later in the film.

Wright is there, more or less, just to show us that Barry does have a family and people who love him, because other than that she doesn't have much to do.

The last 15 minutes of the film do feel a little rushed pacing wise, but the finality of the story doesn't leave much to the imagination.

The camerawork, particularly Liman's signature "shaky cam" aesthetic, is very noticeable and definitely adds to the atmosphere during the flight scenes.

However at times it was a bit distracting, and you don't know where to focus for certain scenes. The vibrant colors found in almost every shot along with the occasional voice-over serve as a great reminder that this is somewhat of a comedy.

That being said, the film does criticize our government and the ways it operates quite overtly. The entire movie is about a man whose job was to aid the U.S. in militarizing rebels and how they were fine with his drug smuggling activities — until it stopped being convenient for them.

Barry Seal was able to reach great heights thanks to the CIA. Liman and Cruise do a great job of showing this in a light-hearted way that really grabs the audience and is generally a fun time.

Panel discusses history of the Black Arts Movement

By **SARAH SCHREIB**
Senior Staff Writer

A panel discussion on the past and present narratives surrounding the Black Arts Movement took place last Friday in Gilman.

Members of the community came to the event, titled "Archiving the Black Arts Movement and Beyond: A Conversation" and listened to each panelist present their unique perspective on the topics at hand.

The panel included Hopkins PhD candidate in English Gloria Jirsaraie, scholar Keith Gilyard, writer-professor Steve Cannon and poet-activist Sonia Sanchez. It was moderated by Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of English and History Lawrence Jackson.

The event began with a libation ceremony by Charlie Dugger, a local educator and community activist. He called out the names of black artists and political figures and encouraged the audience to do the same. Names from Ella Fitzgerald to Toussaint L'Ouverture soared through the room.

With the tone set by Dugger, the first speaker of the afternoon, Jirsaraie, elaborated on the history of black writers during the 1960s Black Arts Movement (BAM).

Her scholarly background in English was evident as she discussed the importance of publications such as *Black Dialogue Magazine* and the *Journal of Black Poetry*, both published in the 1960's.

She also pointed out the black press organizations that existed during this time period, along with publications such as *Negro Digest* that featured the work of well-known poet Langston Hughes, as well as fellow panelist Sonia Sanchez.

Jirsaraie also discussed the BAM within the context of black communities and other black movements in the mid-20th century. In describing the participatory art forms, public readings and musical collaborations of BAM artists, Jirsaraie emphasized the community outreach involved in the movement.

She also addressed concepts of mysticism and a specific "black aesthetic," which she claimed were controversial topics among black writers.

The final element in Jirsaraie's discussion was the critique of the BAM by mainstream media outlets like *The New York Times*.

She argued that criticisms such as the idea that black artists were "overly emotional" ultimately shaped how the movement is remembered in the U.S.

Dugger followed Jirsaraie and he gave a short speech about his time as an undergraduate student at Howard University and on engaging with his identity as a black American.

He described how he and his fellow students started holding an annual Marcus Garvey Day, a tradition that still occurs every year. He

SEE BLACK ARTS, PAGE B8



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Celebrated poet Sonia Sanchez was a featured panelist at the event.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Rapsody comes out strong with her second album



COUP D'ORIELLE/CC BY-SA 2.0

Rapsody's debut solo album, *The Idea of Beautiful*, came out in 2012.

By NIKITA SHTARKMAN
For *The News-Letter*

North Carolina rapper Rapsody has been featured on huge projects, including Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp a Butterfly* and Anderson .Paak's *Malibu*, but her solo work made no real waves.

However, that ended on Sept. 22 when Rapsody released her second album *Laila's Wisdom*, a phenomenal work that will hopefully springboard her into the spotlight.

This album is full of objectively great songs. The lyricism, the sounds and the flow all work together to create an almost picture perfect album.

There are no awkward verses, no songs that drag on, no skits that feel haphazardly tossed in — this is a project that is artfully crafted with barely any missteps.

The heavy hitter on *Laila's Wisdom* is obviously the song with Kendrick, “Power.” Whenever Kendrick steps on a track, it feels like the bar for success is elevated.

He flows over this dark, slapping boom-bappy beat with absolute ease, hopping across the rumbling bass with a verse that feels like it can fall apart at any point.

Kendrick has a style of rapping that he brings out occasionally. I call it “the hot-potato flow,” where he spits in a haphazard, quick fashion, tossing words out with seemingly no care. It constantly feels like he's about to lose the flow, but he tosses it up again, switches the style and keeps spitting.

Kendrick is one of the few artists known for taking over songs (along with Drake and The Weeknd), but he does not succeed here. Rapsody not only keeps up with him, but has some great verses and flows of her own.

The best song on this album is “Black & Ugly.” The beat is gorgeous and the vocal chops are pleading, begging and sweet.

The piano fills that burst in the higher frequencies feel like the chirps of birds or the whistle of the wind. The chorus, featuring BJ the Chicago Kid, feels like a riff from *Django* with a heavily layered, gospel chorus.

This also has one of the hardest Rapsody verses on the project. She barrels over the rumbling bass-heavy beat, with clever wordplay (“Get better like Lamar did/ I'm never gonna owe dem”) and a flow that seems unstoppable.

“Black & Ugly” is also a song of victory, a song of epiphany and poise. Rapsody spits, “Confidence of a porn star the day I cut the horns off/ Took all my demons and threw them down the hill in a buggy/ Then stood on top the hill and did the milly rock and dougie.”

Even in this three bar section, you can see the kind of subtle cleverness that Rapsody imbues into her verses. This is true of her writing throughout the project—layered and clever. The way that Rapsody handles subtle wordplay and references—specifically the demon, hell and horns—is very reminiscent of Jay-Z, with his double/triple entendres.

Laila's Wisdom isn't just dusty beats and boom-bap drums. A song like “Sassy” shows how dynamic and multifaceted this project is. The up-tempo beat, with its funky, kick-led rhythm, feels like a dance hit.

Rapsody corrals the beat with a flow that feels natural—something that is exceptionally impressive. The yelps and yips in the background are strange, but they fit the weird funky vibe of the song.

Along with all the praise on Rapsody, I want to quickly mention one of the masterminds of this project: the man behind the boards, 9th Wonder. That man is a legend in the Hip Hop game, and is criminally underappreciated.

Almost all of the beats

on this project were worked on by 9th and he created a hell of a soundscape.

The samples are all gorgeous, with great chops and drums that feel so natural and unique. Each song sounds completely distinct, while fitting a soulful classic vibe.

There is one part of the album that I think was a major mistake: the song “Chrome (Like Ooh).” I really tried to like it. The beat is crazy—kind of like “Accordion” by Madvillain. Rapsody somehow finds a niche into which she lets loose her intricate verses.

My issue is with the mix of the song. On the first beat of every bar, there's a booming Sub 808 bass hit, which is boosted far too loud. It messes with the harmonics of the rest of the song.

No matter how hard I try, the monotonous, deafening bass is impossible to get past. The beat switch in the middle of the song saves the track, allowing a whole new lush beat to burst in.

The second part is beautiful.

Rapsody continues dropping hard truths; “I was taught to respect the driver more than the ride.”

Remember back when I said “Black and Ugly” is the best song on the album. Two paragraphs later and I'm already taking that back. This is the kind of project where each listen brings a new favorite song.

Right now, I think that “Jesus Coming” is the peak of this project. It's

a gorgeous closer—almost seven minutes of the wonkiest, most delicate beat I've ever heard. It barely classifies as a beat, with just a random wail and a small piano melody—no drums.

Amber Navran lays some great vocals over the chorus of “Jesus Coming,” and Rapsody does exactly what Rapsody does across the whole album: snaps.

“Jesus Coming” is a crushing song about violence, death and the loss of innocence in the projects. The juxtaposition between the naiveté of childhood and the terribleness of senseless loss is devastating to listen to.

I highly recommend *Laila's Wisdom*. It's a breath of fresh air in the stale, trap-flavored, Xanax-tinged hip-hop that currently dominates the charts.

This album is already in contention for the best rap album of the year. It is so easy to re-listen to and with each listen, you'll find new lyrics and themes that you missed on the first listen.

This is an album that continues to get better, both in its musical beauty and in the wealth of thought and feeling in the verses.

I'm glad that Rapsody, who blessed us with a bunch of great features, has transcended her role as second fiddle and created a phenomenal solo project. I sincerely hope that this project gets the respect and attention that it so clearly deserves.

Panelists reflect on the historiography of BAM

BLACK ARTS, FROM B7

also cited Langston Hughes as one of his favorite writers and a figure who encouraged him to live simply.

After Dugger, Keith Gilyard stepped up to the podium. His remarks focused on the need to archive the BAM through collections of often overlooked sources like student papers, unfinished manuscripts, audio recordings, organizational notes and community newspapers.

Gilyard stressed the need to compile these sources in order to flesh out the cultural context of the time period.

Another point he made was that the BAM was a literacy movement as well as a literary one. According to Gilyard, the increase in production and dissemination of black writing caused an increased interest in reading among young people of color.

The next speaker was Steve Cannon, a writer and professor who spoke about his own personal experiences with his fellow artists during the BAM. Cannon began his story with his mother's immigration from Haiti after the Haitian Revolution and his own upbringing in New Orleans before he moved to New York City.

He described the breadth of education he received from the works of black writers growing up. While the tone of the issues he discussed was serious, Cannon also brought bits of lightness and laughter to the audience.

The final speaker on the panel was Sonia Sanchez, a poet and activist who was also a part of the Black Arts Movement. Sanchez first discussed the origins of the BAM. Scholar Larry Neal coined the term in the early

1960s as a “sister” to the Black Power concept.

Next Sanchez recited the poem she read at the funeral of legendary drummer, educator and BAM activist Max Roach. Her words and scattering were strong and delicate, with powerful imagery of a man who changed many people's lives with his music.

“Whenever I hear a drum exploding in a room / I remember the first time I saw you on stage / your drum crashing against the stars.”

The poem also played with concepts of gender and divinity.

“Amen! Awomen! Amen-men-men-men! Awomen! Awomen! Awomen! Awomen!”

Sanchez later discussed gender dynamics within the BAM, as she was often the only woman reading poetry alongside a group of all men.

Like Jirsaraie, Sanchez also commented on the ways in which she believes that the narrative of the BAM has been distorted and made to seem insignificant in the public conscious.

To counter this prevailing notion, she spoke about modern day black artists like Toni Morrison, Danny Glover and Spike Lee, whose works have been shaped and inspired by that of the BAM artists.

The event concluded with a series of questions from the audience. Sanchez responded with a declaration of the need for future generations to question established institutions the way that her generation of artists in the BAM did.

She also stressed that audience members support current writers and artists who are promoting progressive politics.

The Parkway Theater celebrates the legacy of artist Tony Conrad

By ANNE HOLLMULLER
Senior Staff Writer

“Completely in the Present: A Tribute to Tony Conrad” was a two-night screening event held on Friday and Saturday at the Parkway Theatre in tribute to experimental artist, filmmaker and musician Tony Conrad.

On both nights, Director Tyler Hubby introduced a screening of his film, *Tony Conrad: Completely in the Present*, which was followed by a live performance of music inspired by Conrad's life and work.

The Maryland Film Festival and the Parkway Theatre partnered with Deakin (Josh Dibb) and Geologist (Brian Weitz), members of the local band, Animal Collective, to create this two-night event featuring local musicians and paying homage to one of America's lesser-known artistic innovators.

Tony Conrad was an American visual artist, experimental filmmaker and musician who is considered a major innovator in both structural film and drone music.

Conrad was a member of the Theatre of Eternal Music, a group that used intonation and sustained sounds to produce what they called hallucinatory dream music, now called drone music.

Conrad and his early

partners La Monte Young and John Cale also played a role in the formation of the Velvet Underground. Conrad composed and recorded several audio works with solo amplified violin and amplified strings, releasing albums such as *Slapping Pythagoras* in 1995, *Four Violins* in 1996, *Outside the Dream Syndicate* with Faust and *Fantastic Glissando*.

Conrad is also notable for his accomplishments in film and the visual arts. His 1966 film *The Flicker*, consisted entirely of completely black or completely white images, producing a projected flicker that drove some audience members to vomiting at its initial screenings.

Hubby's movie ably traces the evolution of Conrad's interest in music, film and art, including Conrad's later innovations in public access television and citizen engagement.

Weitz of Animal Collective, gave an introduction to Friday night's events, describing how he had first become familiar with Conrad's work.

“I first saw Tony and heard Tony's music in the late 90s. I went to school in New York and was getting more into experimental music,” Weitz told the crowd.

Weitz talked about the impact Conrad's music had on his tastes.

“I had very little patience for drone or minimalism of any kind, and then I went to the Cooler one night to a radio benefit,” he said. “The only thing I remember from that night was Tony's set. It was really transformative, it really opened my mind up to new ways of thinking about music.”

Weitz then introduced the film's director, Hubby, who spoke about the random series of events that had led him to become acquainted with Conrad.

“This really all started for me in 1994, as that's when I first met Tony. My then-roommate in San Francisco was a guy named Jeff Hunt who was starting a record label called Table of the Elements, and he was obsessed with reissuing this sort of lost-considered, embarrassing-LP called *Outside the Dream Syndicate* which was thought to be a Faust record,” Hubby said.

From there Hubby was able to connect with Conrad. “[Hunt] contacted Tony in the media department where he was teaching up in Buffalo and asked him if he could do it, realizing eventually that this was really a Tony Conrad recording,” Hubby said.

Hubby began accumulating footage of Conrad during the 1994 tour that followed the release of this

remastered LP, footage that later became a part of *Completely in the Present*.

Years later, Hubby reached out to Conrad about making a movie.

“Finally in 2010, I just wrote to him and said we need to do something with all of this. Let's make a film, and Tony was game for that,” Hubby said.

Conrad died before the film's release in 2016, however, Hubby does not view the film as merely an homage to his late friend but rather as a living representation of the man and his work.

“I think you'll see that the film is not really meant as a memorial or eulogy or anything, the idea was to create this living document, and I think for those of us who knew Tony and were friends of his, it feels that way,” Hubby said.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Tony Conrad is known for his contributions to experimental film and music.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Witness Showcase highlights talent both onstage and behind the scenes

By **KATHERINE LOGAN**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

On Friday, September 29, Witness Theater's Fall Showcase premiered in the Swirnow Theater. This year's lineup featured the debut of five original and student-written short plays, including Kiana Beckman's *Please Form a Line Here*, Anita Louie's *IQ*, Vanessa Quinlivan's *Invisible*, Emma Shannon's *Perfect Strangers* and Michael Feder's *Neighbor*.

This diverse array of works, produced by Sarah Linton, highlighted the unique voices and talent that exists on the Hopkins campus.

Linton described the process behind selecting the five plays that Witness featured in this year's showcase.

"Witness is about supporting student writers, so we look for well-written plays that get us excited about doing theater," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

She discussed the need for writers to creatively engage with their stories and with the audience.

"Strong writing is very important; it's more fun for the actors and directors if they're telling a story they believe in and can engage with," Linton said. "We also try to do plays from a variety of genres to keep things interesting."

Please Form A Line Here, directed by Brandon Lim and Sharon Maguire, played with the notion of

God as a deceased reality TV star, Gary Goldman. David Gumino shone both literally and metaphorically as an extremely devout follower of "The Great Gary," who, in a twist ending, winds up experiencing a crisis of faith.

Beckman's script sparked interesting questions about religious systems, yet it tried to cover so much ground that it may have left some viewers feeling a little overwhelmed.

Another play centered around a satirical future that feels more relatable than one might like to admit. *IQ*, directed by David Gumino and Deborah Weidman, takes place in a world where the government has forced all of the citizens to take an IQ test.

From then on, they will have to wear their numerical score. It is meant to serve as a more egalitarian measure of their worth.

A highlight of *IQ* were the moments of romantic tension between Ana, played by Gemma Simoes Decarvalho, and Ridley, played by Usman Enam.

Louie is a junior now, but he wrote the play during his freshman year. He discussed how the concept of test scores being used to define a person is relatable to anyone that has experienced the admissions process.

"I was sort of shocked how Hopkins was no different from high school in terms of how people put emphasis on their scores

instead of on learning. I revisited the draft of the play this summer when I was studying for the MCAT, and it really resonated since I found myself getting lost in my scores," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Invisible, directed by Matt Mullner and Renee Scavone, centered around the struggles of an actress and playwright, Andrea, played by Erin Todaro. Andrea is confronted by one of her peers about her rendition of him in her latest work.

"My play is about writing — art may imitate life because when we write, we draw on our personal experiences and relationships, but it also goes the other way," Quinlivan, the author of *Invisible*, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "It has to be odd to be the friend of an artist and see elements of yourself and your relationship with them in their work, especially if they didn't ask you first."

The play within a play element was interesting, if at times a tiny bit confusing. That said, something especially fun to watch was Jackie Gladden's portrayal of Andrea's sister, Bee, from the audience. Their conversations brought a hearty dose of humor to the show.

"Working with Witness is great because the process is always unique," Todaro wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Students from all backgrounds and

experience levels get to contribute as equals to an exciting product that was never seen before and will never be seen again!"

Sophomore Emma Shannon wrote and directed the play *Perfect Strangers*, with Renee Scavone serving as assistant director.

Following the lives of arguably one of the cutest couples that never was, it balanced almost too good to be true rom-com elements with bittersweet doses of reality, deftly playing with the audience's "Will they or won't they?" expectations.

Shannon was particularly interested in exploring campus hookup culture and visions of alternate possibilities or realities.

"I drew inspiration from my experiences and the experiences of others. It's the first time hookup culture has really been relevant in my life and I like to think about sort of 'almost situations,' and what could have been," Shannon wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Although it only featured two actresses, Morgan Griffin and Claire Beaver, *Neighbor*, directed by Pepe Muniz, still packed an emotional punch.

Those that attended Feder's recent Tentative Digital Theatre Company production, *Vacation*, could see a clear line tying it to *Neighbor* in the shared themes of the struggle to communicate effectively and to process grief.

The dynamic relation-



COURTESY OF WITNESS THEATER

Gemma Simoes Decarvalho and Usman Enam starred in *IQ*, a featured play.

ship between the two female characters, Cathy and Melissa, in the wake of Cathy's daughter's death takes center stage in *Neighbor*. But the characters' marriages to their respective husbands, who interestingly barely appear onstage, add to the complexity of the situation.

Both Griffin and Beaver brought the necessary intensity to their emotional roles.

Feder elaborated on his interest in trusting the audience to actively engage with his work rather than providing them with a more straightforward depiction of a character's struggles.

"If something is so painful to a character that it warrants a story be told about it, it cannot then be easy or straightforward for them to communicate that pain to the audience or another character," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Instead, these characters

talk about everything else: cleaning out their closets, entertaining the neighbors, drinking tea. I think the audience is perceptive enough to see this and know that something else is really going on."

Neighbors was Beaver's first production with Witness. She loved that students were the ones running the show.

"I encourage everybody to try to write a play or audition to be in one," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Senior Allie Zito felt like each of the shows provided unique and interesting commentary on modern life.

"It featured plays that offered a fresh perspective on life and actors that really brought the writers' themes to light. The set really lent itself to a diverse number of uses, and the lighting was spot on," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

LANNDS puts on an enchanting performance

By **WILL KIRSCH**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

I'm 21 years old, and I feel old as shit. Somehow, I managed to skip right over the quarter-life crisis and hopped right into the deep pool of existential dread that 40-year-old men live in fear of. That being said, premature adulthood has encouraged me not to spend my weekends in sweaty frat basements anymore.

What does this have to do with art? Well, because I have grown more adventurous with my mental age, I spent my Friday night at Downsquares in Station North, where Florida based indie group LANNDS was playing a show as part of their week-long tour up and down the east coast.

Rania Woodard and Brian Squillance are the musicians behind LANNDS. They released their debut EP *Wide Awake in a Sleepy World* in August 2016. This four-song EP is beautifully bare. An echoing guitar stands alone

in the absence of a beat and melds with the deceptively effortless production.

The beats have a particular vocal quality to them that makes Woodard's own singing seem like a natural extension of the synths. If a black sand beach — preferably in Iceland — covered in the fragile sunlight of an overcast day made a sound, it would be something like *Wide Awake in a Sleepy World*.

All that being said, I had never heard of LANNDS before I went to their show at Downsquares. Of course, I did my research beforehand and particularly enjoyed their latest single "Hourglass," which is off of their forthcoming EP *Legends*, to be released in 2018.

Apparently I'm not alone in that opinion because "Hourglass" was featured on Spotify UK's New Music Friday playlist after it was released on September 22. Yet, listening to some MP3s doesn't really prepare one for a live show, so I wasn't sure what to expect.

LANNDS was the last act to play, preceded by three local bands: Faceless Ones, Little Lungs and Liberata. Unfortunately, I missed all three by grossly mistiming my arrival, but they're worth checking out.

Faceless Ones, who are from Frederick, Md. released their album *Redwood Lodge*, which can be found on SoundCloud and iTunes in April 2017.

Little Lungs put out their single "Darling" late last month. The song is featured in a short film of the same name, made by Amanda Ferrarese.

Liberata, according to their own description, are named after the Italian patron saint of lost causes. They released their self-titled six-song EP in January of this year. The latter single and EP can both be found on the artists' respective Bandcamps.

By the time I got there, LANNDS was already setting up, and it was less than one beer until they began their set. Interestingly, Downsquares does not ostensibly seem like a great place to see music; it is essentially just the basement of Joe Squared, the pizza restaurant. Somehow though, the acoustics are insane, and the few shows I have been to there have all sounded great.

This was no exception; Woodard's voice filled the room with a sort of ambient calm, a sensation furthered by Squillance's production.

For most of the show, I leaned against the wall with my eyes closed and just enjoyed the sound, fairly

uninterested in anything non-auditory that was happening around me.

That seems like a positive review of a live performance; if you don't feel like you have to look at anything because the music is so absorbing, odds are it's good music.

It was a short, tight set, with only brief pauses between songs. The band wasn't particularly talkative; they thanked the crowd for being there and talked about Baltimore a bit, but mostly they just played.

That might come across as aloof or distant when playing to an arena, but, in a venue when you're on the same level as the band and they're less than five feet away, it's sort of comforting.

The music takes absolute precedence and the atmosphere is more like an informal jam session than it is a concert. It was all just really, really nice — the music, the mood and everything.

Circling back to my seemingly pointless and narcissistic introduction, I'm really glad that maturity — and the advantageous position of being an Arts & Entertainment Editor at *The News-Letter* — have encouraged me to expand my nightlife options.

Instead of drinking lite beer in a dark basement, I spent my Friday at a great concert, which coincidentally happened to be in a basement that served lite beer. Had I not gone, I would have missed out on a good show by a band of which I am now officially a fan.



COURTESY OF WILL KIRSCH

Florida-based band LANNDS played Baltimore as a part of their east coast tour.

Staff Picks: Good Reads

1. *A Fine Balance*
by Rohinton Mistry

2. *The Goldfinch*
by Donna Tartt

3. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

4. *Flowers For Algernon*
by Daniel Keyes

5. *The Plague*
by Albert Camus

6. *Why We Came to the City* by Kristopher Jansma

7. *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible*
by Peter Pomerantsev

SPORTS

Water Polo looks to rebound in Calif. meet

WATER POLO, FROM B12

on Oct. 21 against the Navy Midshipmen.

The Blue Jays traveled to Annapolis, Md. to cap off the weekend with another disappointing loss on Sunday against the Midshipmen.

This game looked a lot like the others, as the Blue Jays went scoreless in the first half of play.

The Midshipmen took the early lead in the first half and continued to shut out the Jays 6-0 until Schmidt got the Jays on the board with a man-up goal at 6:40 in the third quarter.

The match remained pretty much hopeless for the Blue Jays, who were down 10-1 after a three-goal run by the Midshipmen to start the final quarter.

However, junior attacker Andreas Katsis had an impressive run of his own in the final minutes of the match, scoring three goals in the span of just two minutes.

Still, the Jays would fall to the Midshipmen 10-4, losing two of the last three matchups against them. The Jays are now 7-51 all-time against Navy.

The losses push Hopkins to 0-5 in Conference play this year. They are 8-2 in games outside of their Conference this year, however, so there is a lot of hope going into their upcoming tournament.

Though they went 0-3 over the week, the Jays played some tough competition, so their ranking should not be hurt too much by the losses.

The Jays remain ranked in the top 10 nationally among Division-III teams, though they fell from fifth to seventh with the blowout losses.

Next weekend, the Blue Jays gear up for their big annual trip to California — which much of the Hopkins team calls home — for the Gary Troyer Invitational in Claremont, Calif. on October 6 and 7.

“Playing in California is always a good halfway mark in the season,” Wilson said. “It allows us to catch up with family and revitalize for the second half of the season.”

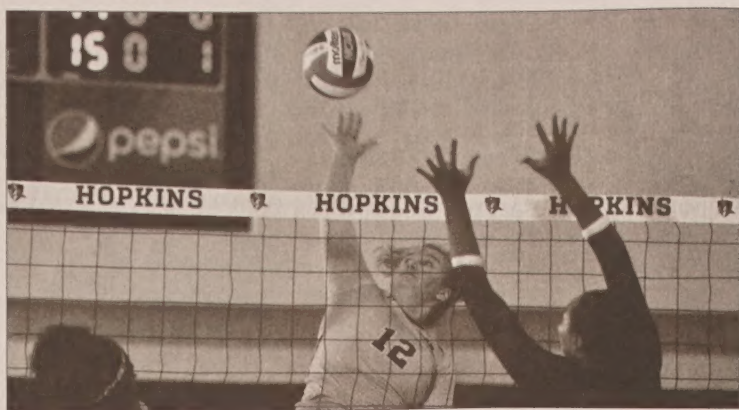
Luckily, the Jays have a couple of days to recover before they leave for California this Thursday. Wilson explained that they will strive to readjust their game before entering the tournament.

“West coast water polo teams generally run their offense through the center position, so we are looking to coordinate a drop to help defend the center, as opposed to our usual press defense,” Wilson said.

The Blue Jays are set to open the tournament on Friday with a doubleheader against the University of Redlands Bulldogs and then against the host team, the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (Claremont McKenna College, Harvey Mudd College and Scripps College) Stags.

With their success this season against non-Conference teams, look for a strong performance from the team.

Volleyball wins both games in Saturday doubleheader



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Volleyball moved up in the rankings this week, going from 24th to 23rd in the country.

By DIVA PAREKH

Copy Editor

The Hopkins volleyball team extended their winning streak to 12 games this past Saturday in Haverford, Pa., with three-set victories over both Haverford College and Arcadia University.

On Tuesday, Sept. 26, the Blue Jays secured the first top-25 national ranking in program history; the American Volleyball Coaches Association Poll puts them at No. 23.

As of Wednesday's game against the Dickinson College Red Devils, the winning streak now stands at 13 games.

The program has certainly come far in their 33 years at Hopkins. Senior setter and middle Kristi Rhead discussed the changes since her freshman year and credited the alumni for helping the program during a time of transition.

“The team has really grown a lot since I got here, both in numbers but more importantly in our commit-

ment,” she said. “We barely had enough people to put six people on the court my sophomore season.”

The Blue Jays won their first game against the Haverford College Fords in three sets (25-14, 25-15, 25-19), not allowing the Fords to earn more than 20 points in a single set.

Hopkins took the lead early in the first set, with four service aces from freshman setter and middle Natalie Aston. The second set started off closer for the Jays, but they took the lead decisively, with kills from outside hitters freshman Simone Bliss and senior Elizabeth Wuerstle.

Bliss and Wuerstle led the team in kills on Saturday, with 21 and 19 kills on the day, respectively. Wuerstle also had five aces against the Fords.

The third set started with Haverford taking the lead, but Hopkins quickly regained the lead with a kill from freshman opposite Morgan Wu. They eventually won the set 25-19.

Wu currently holds the team record for most aces in a three-set match, with 13 in the game against Bryn Mawr College on Sept. 16. She addressed the role the team culture plays in their success.

“We push each other to extend ourselves, and to do so, we have to feel uncomfortable,” she said.

Expressing the team's focus on health, both physical and mental, Wu added, “We are completely team-first in every action, whether it's sacrificing the last hour of study for an extra hour of sleep or keeping up good nutrition.”

The second game of the doubleheader was played against the Arcadia University Knights, who have yet to win a game against the Jays.

Hopkins got off to a hot start against Arcadia, taking advantage of the momentum from their previous game to win the first set 25-11.

The set ended with a kill from Rhead, who spoke about her evolution as a player.

“My technical skills have improved a ton since I got to Hopkins,” she said. “But what I'm most grateful to the program for are

my leadership skills and development of my attitude.”

She also addressed how the team has grown together.

“In addition to development of our attitudes, we've also grown both in our volleyball technical skills and in our fitness with a lot of hard work, preparation and focus in the gym and the weight room.”

The second set was neck-and-neck, but strong performances by Wuerstle and sophomore outside hitter Louisa Kishton propelled the Jays to win 25-21. Kishton led the team in digs, with 30 on the day.

During the third and final set of the game, the Jays maintained their lead throughout, winning the set 25-22 and sweeping the match in three-sets. Freshman defensive specialist Rachel DePencier stood out, with a team-leading four aces against the Knights.

The Jays' success this season is surprising given that five of their 13 players are freshmen. Wu talked about how the new players have adapted to the team environment, crediting the coaches and the upperclassmen.

“The team culture is undoubtedly one of the most supportive and loving environments I have ever been a part of,” Wu said. “We can all solidly depend on each other if and when we ever feel overwhelmed.”

The Jays now have an overall season record of

14-2 and are undefeated in the Centennial Conference, with a 4-0 record. Their current winning streak of 13 games is the longest since 2012, and they have won their last 14 Conference matches.

Nevertheless, Wu explained that the team emphasizes the process over the results.

“The record, the streak and the national ranking are all just results that don't impact the way we approach every training session and match,” she said.

Rhead agreed, citing the importance of putting the team before the individual.

“We aim to create an environment that is extraordinary in the sense that it fosters learning, development, excellence, love and high effort,” she said. “My dream senior season is one where every player is all in on the team and striving for excellence.”

Even if the Jays' winning streak comes to an end, it may not mean the team has failed.

“We've been working hard to hold ourselves to a high standard of excellence, and when we play ‘our way,’ we bank it as a win regardless of the results of the match,” Wu said.

The Blue Jays will strive to continue their success at home against the Washington and Lee University Generals on Friday, Oct. 6 in Goldfarb Gym. They will continue their Conference schedule on Saturday, Oct. 7 against the Muhlenberg College Mules.

Ursinus beats the Jays with a touchdown in the final minute

By BRANDON WOLFE

For The News-Letter

For the first time in almost five years, the Hopkins football team lost a regular season game. The unparalleled 45-game regular season winning streak was snapped this weekend in an epic showdown against the Ursinus College Bears, with the Blue Jays falling 21-17 in Collegeville, Pa.

The Bears got off to a hot start just two plays after receiving the opening kickoff. Following a seven-yard run on the first play of the game, Ursinus quarterback Thomas Garlick found wide receiver Carmen Fortino downfield, who ran 67 yards into the end zone to put Ursinus on the board just 50 seconds after kickoff.

Staying composed, the Blue Jays responded quickly and effectively with an 11-play, 80-yard drive topped off by a nine-yard strike from sophomore quarterback David Tammaro to senior wide receiver Brett Caggiano.

The score remained as such until early in the second quarter, when the Jays recovered the Bears' fumble to get the ball in Ursinus territory; eight plays and 19 yards later, senior kicker Jamie Sullivan knocked in a 40-yard field goal to give Hopkins their first lead of the game.

Sullivan got a second field goal attempt soon thereafter, but could not convert, missing out on

an additional three points for the Blue Jays. The two teams traded punts back and forth until the half ended with the score held at 10-7 in favor of Hopkins.

Receiving the ball in the second half, Hopkins went three-and-out, once again giving the Bears the early momentum at the start of the third quarter.

The Bears capitalized with a four-play, 75-yard drive with 26 and 34-yard throws by Garlick, capped off by a two-yard run from running back Stacey Gardner that took just over a minute to complete. Ursinus put themselves back in the lead at 14-10.

Ursinus continued to build momentum as they picked off Tammaro's pass in the first play of the Jays' next possession.

The Blue Jay defense remained stout and forced the Bears' kicker Alex DeSpirito to attempt a 30-yard field goal that sailed wide, keeping the score at 14-10.

DeSpirito got another chance early in the fourth quarter, this time from 37 yards out, but this kick was also unsuccessful.

The Jays retook possession and marched 80 yards in 13 plays to reclaim the lead at 17-14 after a one-yard rush from Tammaro.

With just over five minutes left in the game, Ursinus took the ball from their own 26 and ran down the clock with an effective running game.

They also had help from a 15-yard penalty

against the Blue Jays after the Bears converted on a crucial third down and 15 yards.

Ursinus continued to make their way down to the Jays' nine yard line. From there, Garlick ran the ball into the end zone with just 20 seconds left on the clock. This would prove to be the deciding score.

The Jays could not find the end zone in their desperate attempts at the end of game, giving the Bears the win and handing Hopkins their first regular season loss since 2012 against Franklin & Marshall.

The loss was a role-reversal from what the Blue Jays have been accustomed to this season.

In the first two games of the season for the Jays, they managed to overcome deficits in the final seconds of regulation to either tie the game or take the lead, so they got a taste of their own medicine against the Bears.

“It was a great game that came down to the wire,” junior offensive lineman Zack Tous-saint said.

“We have to hand it to Ursinus for coming out with the win, but for us, we still have the whole season ahead of us and our goals haven't changed. Now our attention is fully turned towards Franklin & Marshall.”

Tammaro finished 20 for 41 passing with 258 yards and a touchdown, 94 of those yards going to junior wide receiver Luke McFadden on his six catches. Running back Ryan Cary contributed a season-high 97 yards on the ground, as well as 51 yards in the receiving game.

For the Bears, Garlick was 11 for 22 passing with 247 yards through the air, as well as 104 yards in the run game. Fortino netted 111 yards on three catches while wide receiver Jonathan Gerhartz finished with 93 yards on two grabs.

While the game was disappointing for the Hopkins team, the real

test will be to see how they bounce back from the loss.

“It's tough to lose, especially since it's such an unfamiliar feeling, but how we bounce back will define our team,” senior defensive back Michael Munday said. “We know what we are capable of and are a confident group, so I am excited to see how we bounce back.”

The winning streak had to come to an end at some point, so the Jays can take this opportunity to start a new streak and they will need it if they wish to win their seventh consecutive Centennial Conference title.

Hopkins will return home this weekend after two straight weeks on the road as they face off against Centennial Conference foe Franklin & Marshall on Saturday, Oct. 7 at 1 p.m. on Homewood Field.



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The Hopkins football team lost their first regular season Centennial Conference game since 2012.

SPORTS

W. Soccer comes from behind to beat Haverford

By ESTHER HONG
Sports Editor

Last Saturday afternoon, the eighth-ranked Hopkins women's soccer team came back from an early 1-0 deficit to defeat their Centennial Conference opponent, the Haverford College Fords, 3-1.

"Saturday's game was an important Conference win. The wind and grass field were definitely a factor, but we were able to dominate the play and come out with the win," sophomore forward Mad-dy Rocks said.

Within the fourth minute of the game, the Fords managed to quickly make it onto the scoreboard.

Despite an early lead for the Fords, Hopkins drove the game's momentum the rest of the way.

"Going forward in the rest of the season, we're looking to bring the same energy to every game," Rocks said. "We were down 1-0 at the beginning of the game, but we responded well to their goal and were able to take the lead."

Freshman forward Riley O'Toole dribbled past two defenders and shot the ball past the Fords' goalie Julie Hanss to tie the game 1-1.

O'Toole then fired again as she headed a cross from senior forward Michelle Santangelo, giving the Blue Jays their first lead of the game at 2-1.

The goals for O'Toole were her sixth and seventh of the year, putting her in second place on the team for the number of goals scored.

It was senior forward Bailey Monaco who secured the victory for the Blue Jays as she added the final goal of the game to put the Jays up by two. Monaco took a shot from outside the penalty box, zooming into the far lower corner of the net.

Senior goalie Bess Kitzmiller, with the help of the Jays' defensive line, kept the Fords from scoring another goal.

"Some standout plays were Riley O'Toole's two goals and Bailey Monaco's goal too. Bess had multiple great saves, including saving a penalty kick," Rocks said.

After her two goals

last Saturday, O'Toole is seven on the season — an impressive number for a player just entering their first season of collegiate competition.

After Saturday's victory, the Jays are now 21-7-4 against the Haverford Fords and have won the past five times the two have faced off.

Additionally, after tallying an assist on Saturday, senior forward Michelle Santangelo has scored a point in each of five straight games. She is only the 10th Blue Jay in program history to accomplish this feat. Santangelo now leads the team in both points (19) and goals (eight).

Haverford outshot the Blue Jays 14-12 and took nine corner kicks compared to the Blue Jays' seven. Despite the aggression from the Fords, Hopkins came out on top with their accuracy and defensive perseverance.

This was shown by Kitzmiller's six saves in the net compared to the Haverford goalie's four during the game.

According to Rocks, the Jays plan to stay mindful of the goals they set for themselves as they approach every practice and game for the remainder of their season.

"Some of our goals are to always stay positive, keep our energy up and to play our style of soccer no matter who our opponent is," Rocks said.

Rocks, a crucial team member on the field this season, tore her ACL during her freshman preseason. She explained the support she received from all members of the program during the recovery process.

"This is my first season, since I tore [my ACL] during preseason last year," Rocks said. "My transition has been easy, since I had all spring and summer to slowly get back into the swing of things. My coaches, teammates and trainer have been so supportive of me this year, which has helped my transition go even smoother."

Hopkins returns to Homewood Field for their next Centennial Conference face-off against the Muhlenberg College Mules on Saturday, Oct. 7 at 6 p.m.

By COURTNEY COLWELL
For The News-Letter

This past weekend, the Hopkins men's soccer team took on Muhlenberg College at home. The Jays came into the match undefeated, seeking to push their winning streak to 10 games and their unbeaten streak to 14 games, feats that had not been accomplished since 2007 and 2006, respectively.

The afternoon match was thus highly anticipated, drawing a large crowd of home-team spectators who were seeking a satisfying Hopkins win.

Regular time play consisted of a series of near-chances and missed opportunities. Senior captain Mike Swiercz found the net in just the sixth minute, but the referees quickly called the goal back. Junior captain Cole Rosenberger also had a near-goal in the 31st minute, but his header was unfortunately batted away by Muhlenberg goalie Jordan Schreer before it was able to cross the line.

A dominant Hopkins defense, which let Muhlenberg fire off just four shots over the course of the match, kept the game scoreless throughout regular play.

An eager Hopkins team thus headed into overtime, anxious to capitalize and ready to finish. Their hard work finally paid off in the 101st minute when

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: JONAH MUNIZ — MEN'S SOCCER

senior defender Jonah Muniz found the net in a one-touch shot off a flick from freshman forward Jonathan Brown.

After scoring the game-winning overtime goal, this week's Athlete of the Week (AOTW) title belongs to senior Jonah Muniz.

Though this is Muniz's first time as AOTW, there's no doubt that the title could have gone to him on a number of occasions throughout his Hopkins career. Consistently starting for the Jays since he

was a freshman, Muniz has proved himself to be a strong and steady force on the Jays' back line.

But his skills are not limited solely to defense. In fact, this week's game-winning goal was not Muniz's first. His first career goal, scored during his freshman year against Eastern Menno-nite, was a game-winner as well. And last season, Muniz contributed a game-tying goal versus Bethany University and notched an assist in the game-winning goal versus Frostburg State.

Following this week's game-winner, Muniz sat down with *The News-Letter* to discuss the team's overtime play and, on a more personal note, what his game-winning goal meant to him.

The News-Letter: Going into Saturday's game against Muhlenberg, the team had not yet lost a game this season. What has team morale been like thus far?

Jonah Muniz: The team morale is pretty high. We are firing on all cylinders right now, and we are enjoying every game and the challenges they bring.

N-L: Throughout regular play, the team had many scoring opportunities but failed to finish. What kind of adjustment did the

team have to make going into overtime to correct this?

JM: I think the problem we were having during regular time was our touch-

es and passes in the final third of the field. We were doing a good job of getting the ball in the rights spots, but our execution was off. Going into overtime, we knew we were doing the right things, but we just needed to convert. We got a little lucky with the ball getting through, and I was in the right place at the right time.

N-L: Does overtime bring any additional pressure to the team?

JM: There are always extra pressures when you go into an overtime, golden-goal situation. As a team we don't like



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Senior defensive player Jonah Muniz

to change our tactics too much going into overtime unless it is needed. This time around, we knew what we had to do; we just needed to execute.

N-L: How did it feel to score the game-winning goal?

JM: It was pretty exciting scoring the goal to give us the win. It was nice to get a win in front of our alumni, who happened to be standing behind the goal that we scored on. It was fun to celebrate in front of them and give them something to cheer about.

N-L: What are the team goals moving forward?

JM: Our team goals haven't changed throughout the season. We want to win the Centennial Conference, both regular season and tournament. We also want to make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament.

Muniz and the Jays will be back in action this Thursday, Oct. 5 when they take on the Messiah College Falcons on the road in an effort to continue their streak.

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Jonah Muniz
Year: Senior
Sport: Men's soccer
Major: Mechanical engineering
Hometown: Fox River Grove, Ill.

The Thunder proves worthy of taking NBA crown



Mohid Khan
Sportpinion

The Oklahoma City Thunder and their general manager Sam Presti did not have the best parameters to work with this past offseason. Star point guard Russell Westbrook delayed signing his contract extension and hinted at the possibility of his departure. Without Westbrook, the void Kevin Durant left last summer when he departed for the Golden State Warriors would have remained unfilled.

Despite these poor odds, Presti made his best moves this offseason, which then led to Westbrook officially signing the deal.

According to Carmelo Anthony, he and previous Indiana Pacers star player Paul George both almost went to the Cleveland Cavaliers to establish a powerhouse that could have dominated even the Warriors. Luckily for Presti, the Pacers put themselves at a disadvantage by trading George to the Thunder in his contract year for Victor Oladipo and Domantas Sabonis.

Presti also swooped in and effectively stole Carmelo Anthony from the

Knicks, only losing Enes Kanter. Melo is still probably one of best scorers in the League. These two blockbuster deals convinced Westbrook that the Thunder would be a serious competitor for at least this year.

Presti now has serious work to do: Retaining both George and Melo will not be an easy task. The bulk of the pressure, however, falls on head coach Billy Donovan and George, Melo and Westbrook's supporting cast to perform.

Paul George stated that he would be willing to stay depending on the team's performance. In an interview with ESPN, Melo said, "I feel born again, feel rebirth, a different type of energy within myself, around the guys, around the organization, around the city."

As the reigning MVP, Westbrook will be as motivated as ever to exact his revenge on Kevin Durant, so Presti's odds of retaining the two stars are high.

The newfound energy of Melo combined with the already competitive spirits of George and Westbrook bolsters the Thunder's strength. Steven Adams has consistently been honing his craft and has improved significantly in the past two years.

OKC is not the only team that gained firepower this past offseason. In the East, LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers bolstered their roster with the addition of future hall-of-famer Dwyane Wade; all-

round excellent athlete Isaiah Thomas; former MVP Derrick Rose; and lockdown defender Jae Crowder.

With LeBron itching to win his fourth title, the Cavaliers go into the 2017-2018 season stronger than last year. The Cavs did, however, lose one of their greatest assets, Kyrie Irving, to the Boston Celtics, who also acquired Gordon Hayward.

Out West, the Houston Rockets with Chris Paul and James Harden look to be a dangerous combo. Popovich's Spurs, led by Kawhi Leonard, are never to be counted out. The Golden State Warriors added to their reserves, building on a lineup with few weaknesses.

Despite all the improvements from all the teams in the West, many analysts rank OKC above all, but the Warriors' biggest strength is the Thunder's greatest concern: team chemistry.

The Warriors' chemistry, no matter how much you hate or love them, is evident on the court. They

clearly have so much fun playing together.

On the other hand, the Thunder have three ball-dominant players: Westbrook boasted one of the highest usage rates in NBA history, and the other two, Melo and George, were the clear stars on their old teams. But at the same time, if all three can agree to share the ball, the Thunder will seriously threaten to dethrone the Warriors.

Instead of having mediocre spot-up shooters, Westbrook will have Melo and George taking those shots, and unlike before, most will land. George will have some relieved pressure, and Melo, with his self-declared new sense of motivation, could add an entire new flavor to his game.

One thing is for sure, the NBA will be far more intriguing than last season. With current contenders catching up to the Warriors and emerging teams like the Bucks, 76ers and Lakers, the 2017-2018 season will be one for the books.



ERIK DROST/CC BY 2.0
Russell Westbrook continues his contract with Oklahoma City Thunder.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Freshman Riley O'Toole tied the game after an early lead from the Fords.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that senior water polo goalie John Wilson has the most career saves in Hopkins program history. He has also been named All-American twice in his collegiate career thus far.

CALENDAR

Friday
Field Hockey vs. Muhlenberg, 5 p.m.
Volleyball vs. W&L, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Football vs. F&M, 1 p.m.
W. Soccer vs. Muhlenberg, 6 p.m.

Water polo handed two consecutive home losses

By EMILIE HOFFER
Sports Editor

After back-to-back losses at home two weekends ago, the Blue Jays sought to avenge their previous performance with matches against the George Washington University Colonials and the Wagner College Seahawks.

Unfortunately for the Jays, the weekend did not have a happy ending — once again.

To start, the Jays took on the Colonials Friday night in the Newton White Aquatic Center.

Less than four minutes into the match, the Colonials jumped out to a four goal lead before junior utility Josh Kurtz scored the Jays' first goal at the 3:56 mark.

The Colonials quickly responded with back-to-back goals, ending the first quarter with a sizable five-goal lead over the Jays.

The Blue Jays and the Colonials traded goals back and forth in the second quarter, as the Jays failed to make any advances on their five-goal deficit, trailing the Colonials 5-10 going into the half.

A five-goal run in the fourth quarter pushed the Colonials to a 17-8 lead. The Jays' freshman driver Stephen Schmidt ended the Colonials' run with a goal at the 5:09 mark, only to see the Colonials come back with a pair of goals.

Hopkins would fall to George Washington for the third time in their last four meetings in a final score of 20-10.

However, some good news did come out of the loss. Senior John Wilson, who finished the day with 12 saves and three steals in the loss, became the program's all-time leader in saves with 664 career stops following the match against the Colonials.

He passed two-time All-American Jeremy Selbst, who finished his

Hopkins career in 2010 with 662 career saves.

"I felt proud to reach the record," Wilson said. "But mostly I was grateful for all of the support that I have had from my coaches, and especially my parents, along the way."

Wilson and Selbst are now the only two goalies in program history with more than 600 saves. Not to mention, Wilson still has more than half of his final water polo season left to continue to build on his program's record.

The Blue Jays were back in the pool Saturday evening for their matchup with the Wagner Seahawks. Once again, the Jays allowed their opponents to sprint to an early lead, as the Seahawks went up 5-0 in the opening five minutes of play.

Finally, junior attacker Ryan Masi got on the board for Hopkins with 1:49 to play in the first quarter.

Kurtz followed up with another goal for the Blue Jays 51 seconds later to put it at a 5-2 game by the end of the first quarter.

The Seahawks opened the second quarter with a four goal run, pushing their lead to 9-2 over the Jays. Wagner continued to build on their lead, going up 12-4 by halftime.

After another unanswered run by the Seahawks, the Jays fell to an irreversible deficit.

Though Kurtz, who led the Jays' offense with a hat trick in the match, was able to spark some magic for Hopkins late in the fourth quarter, the 5-1 scoring run was not enough for the Jays, as they fell to the Seahawks 12-20.

This means that the Jays have yet to win a home game or a Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference (MAWPC) game this season. They will have just one more chance at a home win this season

SEE WATER POLO, B10

Ursinus breaks football's 45-game winning streak



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

A tremendous 45-game regular season winning streak came to an end this weekend when the Hopkins football team fell to the Ursinus College Bears in a stunning 21-17 loss. After maintaining the lead for the majority of the game, the Blue Jays fell for the first time in regular season in nearly five years. **B10**

NBA Preview: 2017-2018 Season

This NBA off-season, numerous game-changing trades took place, adding some much needed firepower to teams looking to contend with the Golden State Warriors.

PAGE B11

Athlete of the Week: Jonah Muniz

In a nail-biting game against Muhlenberg this past weekend, senior Jonah Muniz punched his first goal of the season to win in double OT and maintain the Jays' perfect record.

PAGE B11

Volleyball extends win streak

After securing their first top-25 national ranking, the women's volleyball team won both their games this past Saturday in three straight sets. Their win streak now stands at 13 games.

PAGE B10

Trump adds fuel to the NFL fire with hateful speech



Greg Melick
Sportpinion

Last year, quarterback Colin Kaepernick, then a member of the San Francisco 49ers, stayed seated during the National Anthem. During preseason, when Kaepernick was not playing, his silent protest went unnoticed. When Kaepernick did not stand for the first game of the regular season, it became a national news story.

As he continued to stay seated game after game, more players across the NFL joined in support. It seemed that every American had their own opinion on the matter, either supporting or condemning the protest against racism in America.

After the first few weeks of players sitting, kneeling and locking arms during the National Anthem, the media outcry eventually subsided. That is, until this year.

The election of President Donald Trump, along with his handling of the Charlottesville protests, amplified the protests by NFL players this season. Unsurprisingly, Trump decided to put his two cents into the situation during a recent speech in Alabama.

"Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now, he's fired?'" Trump said.

The comments revived the public debate surrounding the protests, polarized the NFL and intensified the protests. The following day, every team had players protest, and many teams protested together.

The Pittsburgh Steelers stayed in the locker room during the National Anthem of their game against the Chicago Bears.

The Dallas Cowboys — also known as America's Team — was

joined by owner Jerry Jones as the team knelt together and locked arms before the Anthem in a sign of unity days after the President's words tried to tear them apart.

Other owners did the same, including Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shahid Khan, who donated one million dollars to Trump's inauguration.

"I met with our team captains prior to the game to express my support for them, all NFL players and the League following the divisive and contentious remarks made by President Trump and was honored to be arm-in-arm with them, their teammates and our

coaches during our anthem," Khan said.

Probably the biggest statement of the weekend though, was during the Cowboys-Arizona Cardinals game, which took center stage as the only Monday Night Football game. Even singer Jordin Sparks, who got the lime-light for her rendition of the Anthem, took a political stand.

Written on her hand was "Prov 31:8-9," referencing the Biblical quote from the Old Testament that says, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; De-

fend the rights of the poor and needy."

While these displays of unity powerfully dispel President Trump's divisive comments, the NFL cannot lose sight of what they are actually protesting. The reason Colin Kaepernick did not stand up for the National Anthem a year ago — and the reason he still remains unemployed — is racism.

Racism is the same reason someone like Donald Trump was elected. His election is what gives racists and elitists the confidence to parade down the streets of a town like Charlottesville.

And when the Presi-

dent of the United States responds to the people promoting hate and violence by calling them "fine people," meanwhile calling those NFL players who kneel in protest of racism "sons of bitches," it provides proof that there is still deep-rooted racism in America.

Personally, I did not realize the extent of this deep-seated hate until the events of the last year unfolded. With each new occurrence, whether it is the white supremacists marching in Charlottesville or police abuse against African Americans, I keep telling myself "this can't be real." But each is as real as the next.

I realize now that there is a very real issue that needs to be corrected, and to do that, everyone needs to be committed to acknowledging there is a problem. I think one of the best ways to do that is through the athletes who have a platform to reach millions of people every week.

These protests cannot be one-hit wonders for players. Fans need to see them standing by their cause week after week, just as Colin Kaepernick did last season. According to ESPN, 180 players knelt in protest in Week 3, but only 52 knelt in Week 4.

The protest is not just to show unity against an immature president who is more concerned with professional athletes protesting than he is with actual policy, it is about the racism that has been justified by this President.



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Senior goalie John Wilson set a program record with his 664th career save.